NEWS / A2

Smith still in jail; Judge Pozon calls for hearing Monday

METRO / A21

3 foreigners arrested for unlicensed firearms in condo of Jamby's kin

ACROSS / A15

Inventor turns used cooking oil into fuel for his jeep

SUPER / E1

The great indoors: Domesticity now the newest form of self-expression

Never on a Friday, Trillanes finds out

E... MAY ELECTION NAMAN BA?

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Nancy Carvajal

IN POLITICS, TIMING IS all important.

Rebel leader and political aspirant Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV

NEVER/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, December 9, 2006 ★★ 16 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 1 P18 website: inquirer.net

Oscar winner joins RP fight vs milk firms

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PHILIPPINE CAMPAIGN against giant milk formula companies has drawn the support of respected British actress and two-time Oscar winner Emma Thompson.

The 47-year-old actress of "Howards End" and "Sense and

OSCAR/ A5

AFP

GMA may drop Con-ass

Asean Summit reset under terror, typhoon threat

By Volt Contreras

CEBU CITY—IT WAS THE "THREAT" nobody saw coming.

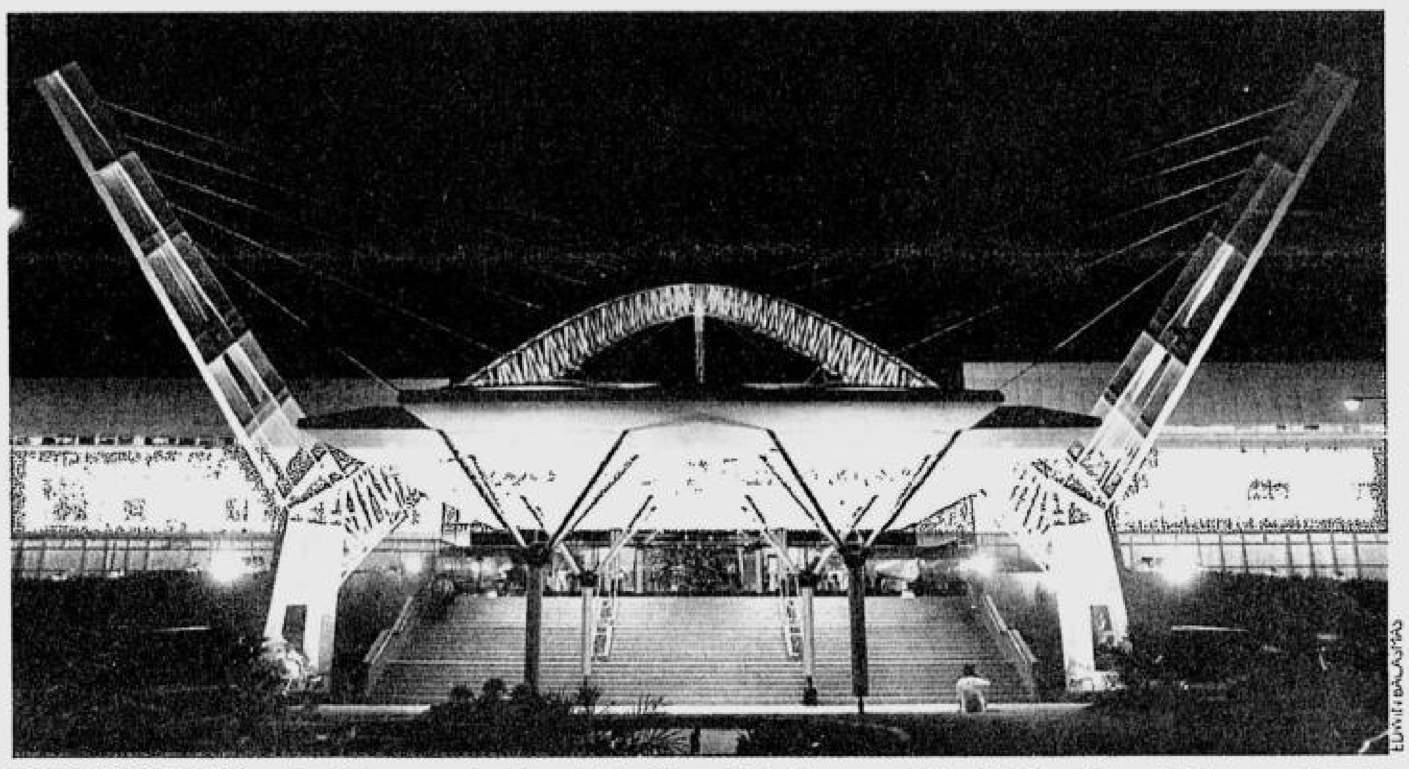
Organizers of the 12th Asean Summit here yesterday announced the postponement of the annual Southeast Asian meet because of storm "Seniang," but they had to dispel speculations that an alleged terror plot several countries had warned about was the more compelling reason behind the decision.

But intelligence sources told Reuters the government was also concerned the summit could create a security vacuum in Manila next week when large demonstrations are expected against a push toward a parliamentary system. *(Story below)*

One intelligence source said the military was checking reports of an alleged plot to grab power ahead of a large rally next Friday. But a spokesperson for the military said there was no threat of a coup, Reuters said.

So unexpected was the postponement that two hours before it was announced,

ASEAN/ A8



OMINOUS CLOUDS (top photo) hang over a beach next to the Shangri-La hotel, a venue of the 12th Asean Summit that was postponed in view of Storm "Seniang," leaving the spanking-new Cebu International Convention Center (above) bereft of a coming-out party.

Local execs fear it will spark people power

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE FIERCELY LOYAL Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to drop her support for the constituent assembly as it might be the trigger for "people power," a key member of Ulap told the INQUIRER.

Amid other pressures from anti-Charter change proponents led by the Catholic Church, Malacañang has reportedly asked the House of Representatives to "abandon" the convening of the Con-ass on Tuesday, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said last night.

Speaker Jose de Venecia and key administration allies will hold a press conference at 10 a.m. today at Dusit Hotel where they are expected to announce "dramatic steps" concerning the projected Con-ass, a House official said.

"Pressure is being made to bear upon President Macapagal-Arroyo and members of the majority, including Speaker De Venecia, to abandon Con-ass," Escudero told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Escudero said the House should stand

GMA MAY DROP/ A6

Bush rebuffs Iraq Study Group report

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush gave a chilly response to the Iraq Study Group's proposals for reshaping his policy, objecting to talks with Iran and Syria, refusing to endorse a major troop withdrawal and vowing no retreat from embattled US goals in the Middle East.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, an unflagging ally in the unpopular war, stood with Bush and wholeheartedly supported his determination to fight to victory in Iraq and spread democracy across the Middle East.

BUSH/ A5

Storm won't hit Mactan directly—Pagasa

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE ADVICE FROM THE COUNTRY'S weather experts was that Tropical Storm "Seniang" would not directly hit Mactan Island and Cebu City, the sites of the twin summits.

Thus, yesterday's announcement by summit organizers that the leaders' meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and East Asia were being put off to another date surprised officials of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Officials of the weather bureau said they neither advised nor were they advised of the postponement.

"No, it did not come from us. We did not recommend anything when it comes to the postponement of the Asean Summit," Science Undersecretary Graciano Yumul said in a press conference, when asked if the weather bureau had recommended the postponement.

"This is something new to us... We did not know that there was a postponement of the summit," he said.

In fact, the forecast, as of yesterday, is that Seniang will be out of the country by Monday night, or the eve of the actual opening of the Asean Summit, Pagasa officials said.

Yumul and Pagasa officials held a closed-door meeting shortly before talking with reporters.

At the press conference, they said that Pagasa and the Department of Science and Technology would support the decision to postpone the Cebu meetings.

"We respect if there is a decision to postpone. Definitely somebody recommended it. If that's the decision of the government, then that's it," Yumul said.

STORM/ A10

22 senators close ranks, vow to boycott Con-ass

By TJ Burgonio

SENATORS, AMONG THEM ALLIES OF President Macapagal-Arroyo, yesterday further closed ranks and declared they would boycott the "illegal and unconstitutional" constituent assembly (Con-ass) convened by the House of Representatives.

Senate President Manuel Villar Jr. and his colleagues rejected the invitation sent out by House Secretary General

22 SENATORS/ A6

OPPOSE US WAR ON TERROR

IMPASSIONED BUT GLEEFUL, demonstrators protesting the killing of leftists and the Palace-House efforts to amend the Charter pelt an effigy of President Macapagal-Arroyo with tomatoes during a rally in front of Camp Aguinaldo.

AFP

More groups join CBCP in Luneta rally against Cha-cha

By Christian V. Esguerra and Norman Bordadora

COUNT THE BANGON PILIPINAS party of evangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva among the groups preparing to join the Catholic Church-led protest action against the House of Representatives' convening itself into a constituent assembly (Con-ass) to amend the 1987 Constitution.

Speaking for Villanueva, who is in the United States, lawyer Ted Pascua yesterday said Bangon Pilipinas would join the prayer rally set by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines on Dec. 15 at Rizal Park in Manila. He said the party was now mobilizing its local chapters for simultaneous protest actions nationwide on that day.

Bangon Pilipinas has more than three million registered members, not counting sympathizers from other Christian denominations.

Villanueva's Jesus Is Lord Movement also has about the same number of members. The Philippines for Jesus Movement, of which he is a top leader, is a

MORE GROUPS/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas will have stormy weather. Bicol Region, Central Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao will experience rains and gusty winds. The rest of Eastern and Southern Luzon and the rest of Visayas and Mindanao will be cloudy with rainshowers. The rest of Luzon will be cloudy with rainshowers.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/12/08/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Stormy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Stormy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Stormy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONT PAGE

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RP, US agree on Smith's custody

But Makati City judge refuses to budge, sets hearing on Monday

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE PHILIPPINE AND UNITED STATES GOVernments have agreed to return a convicted US Marine to US custody, but the judge who sent Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith to jail for rape will not budge.

Despite receiving a written agreement between the two governments to return Smith to the custody of the US pending the resolution of his appeal, Judge Benjamin Pozon chose to call the lawyers of the jailed soldier and the rape complainant to a court hearing on Monday.

According to the agreement, the Philippine and US governments agreed that in accordance with the provisions of the Visiting Forces Agreement governing the conduct of visiting US forces, Smith is to be returned to US military custody at the US Embassy in Manila.

Pozon found Smith guilty of raping a Filipino woman but acquitted his three other coaccused.

The judge ordered the "temporary" commitment of the 21-year-old soldier to the Makati City Jail "pending an agreement" between the Philippines and the US on where he should be detained "pursuant to" the VFA.

The judge's decision to call a hearing on Monday on Smith's urgent motion that he be returned to the US Embassy pending his appeal, as stipulated in the VFA, means that Smith will remain in detention at the Makati jail through the weekend.

As Smith's lawyers waited for the judge to rule on their urgent manifestation informing him of the agreement yesterday, Pozon dispatched his sheriffs to serve the notice calling prosecution and defense lawyers to a hearing at 2 p.m. on Monday.

Asked why he decided to schedule the hearing despite the agreement, Pozon said that it looked to him like the one who signed the document was not the "appropriate officer."

The Dec. 8 agreement was signed by US Ambassador Kristie Kenney and Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño.

During a discussion with Smith's lawyers, Pozon was heard saying that the Philippine signatory should have been at least a department secretary.

A new agreement was submitted to court before the close of office yesterday, signed this time by Kenney and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, satisfying Pozon's requirement.

But the court deferred action on the document, deciding to push through with the Monday hearing as it said all parties have been notified of it.

SMITH

KENNEY

GONZALEZ

POZON

The spokesperson for the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ed Malaya, said there was no problem with the document.

He explained that the justice department was the legal counsel of the DFA, hence the DOJ prosecutors were involved.

In Baguio City, the US ambassador said the case of Smith was covered by an important international agreement.

"That agreement calls for him to remain in US custody until the conclusion of all judicial proceedings throughout this long and difficult year," Kenney told reporters in Baguio yesterday.

"We have complied carefully with the terms of that agreement because that is what allows our military to keep working on humanitarian relief efforts, so it is important that the custody of him be turned back over to the United States. We are working to fix that now," she said.

Kenney said the relationship between the US and the Philippines should not be tarnished by the custody issue over Smith.

"I find Filipinos to be warm and friendly. Our countries have been partners for so many years [and] I think that the people understand that this is a legal case, tried under an important international agreement between two countries," Kenney said.

Joan de Venecia, one of Smith's lawyers, warned that Pozon's ignoring the agreement would have diplomatic repercussions.

"Every international agreement that is entered into must be complied with … we might already be in breach of our international obligations under international law," said De Venecia, who had personally delivered the agreement to the court.

She warned that the US might decide to impose "diplomatic and legal sanctions" on the Philippines.

"We respect the authority of the judge … But there are remedies we are thinking of," she said. *With reports from Nikko Dizon, and Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Calunsag replaces Mayuga as Navy chief

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

NEWLY RETIRED NAVY CHIEF Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga relinquished his post yesterday to former Armed Forces Inspector General Rear Admiral Rogelio Calunsag during turnover rites at Navy headquarters in Manila.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita presided over the turnover rites on behalf of President Macapagal-Arroyo who is the acting defense secretary. Calunsag's appointment was not announced until about 9:30 a.m., barely six hours before the scheduled turnover rites.

In his farewell speech, Mayuga, who will turn 56 today, said he considered as his major accomplishment during his 365 days in office the eviction of over 100 retired generals from housing units in Fort Bonifacio Naval Station in order to raise the morale of young officers and troops.

The BNS quarters were supposed to be used by officers and soldiers while in active duty, but retired senior officers continued to occupy them in the last 15 years using land titles which the government claims were fake. Active duty officers and soldiers, on the other hand, lacked housing facilities.

Mayuga said 202 officers and soldiers and their families were now occupying the vacated quarters and troop morale was at an "all-time high."

"Lest I be misunderstood, I do not take pride in evicting our retirees from the housing quarters at the Bonifacio Naval Station. I only wanted justice to be served and justice to me means giving someone what is due," he said.

Mayuga acknowledged the support of former defense secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. and Navy and Marine officers and men who sent him text messages hailing the eviction at the BNS.

He said he has put legal mechanisms in place to make sure that "overstaying in government quarters … will not happen again."

Mayuga also cited among his major accomplishments the revival of the operational tandem of Philippine Fleet units and Marine troops, and the Coast Watch South, a Navy-led initiative to secure the country's sea border with Indonesia, Malaysia and Australia.

Mayuga turned emotional as he thanked his mother, his wife and his four grown-up children whom he said he is "intensely proud of."

At the end of the ceremony Ermita told Mayuga to "Enjoy your short break, and prepare for another voyage. You know these high-ranking military officers, there is always something awaiting them," Ermita said.

Deported US lawyer behind US 'protest'

THE AMERICAN LABOR LAWYER who was barred from entering the country last Wednesday was instrumental in the issuance of a letter of concern from United States-based business groups about the political killings in the Philippines, according to a non-government organization.

Brian Campbell, a lawyer for the Washington-based International Labor Rights Fund, was briefly detained at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) when he arrived from Hong Kong and was ordered to board a flight back to Hong Kong.

According to the Cavite-based Workers Assistance Center (WAC), Campbell and the ILRF were among those who lobbied for US business groups to ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to act on the extra-judicial killings, which have also victimized labor leaders.

The letter also warned the government that the killings have been worrying to foreign businessmen intending to invest in the Philippines.

Fr. Jose Dizon, the WAC executive director, denounced immigration officials for ordering Campbell's deportation without "a clear and lawful explanation."

Dizon said the incident only showed the "increasing paranoia" of Ms Arroyo.

The priest said Campbell's deportation may have been the government's way of exacting revenge on the labor lawyer and his group.

"Definitely, the strong advocacy of Campbell and his organization… is an affront to the [government's] policies of silencing the militant and progressive labor movement," Dizon said.

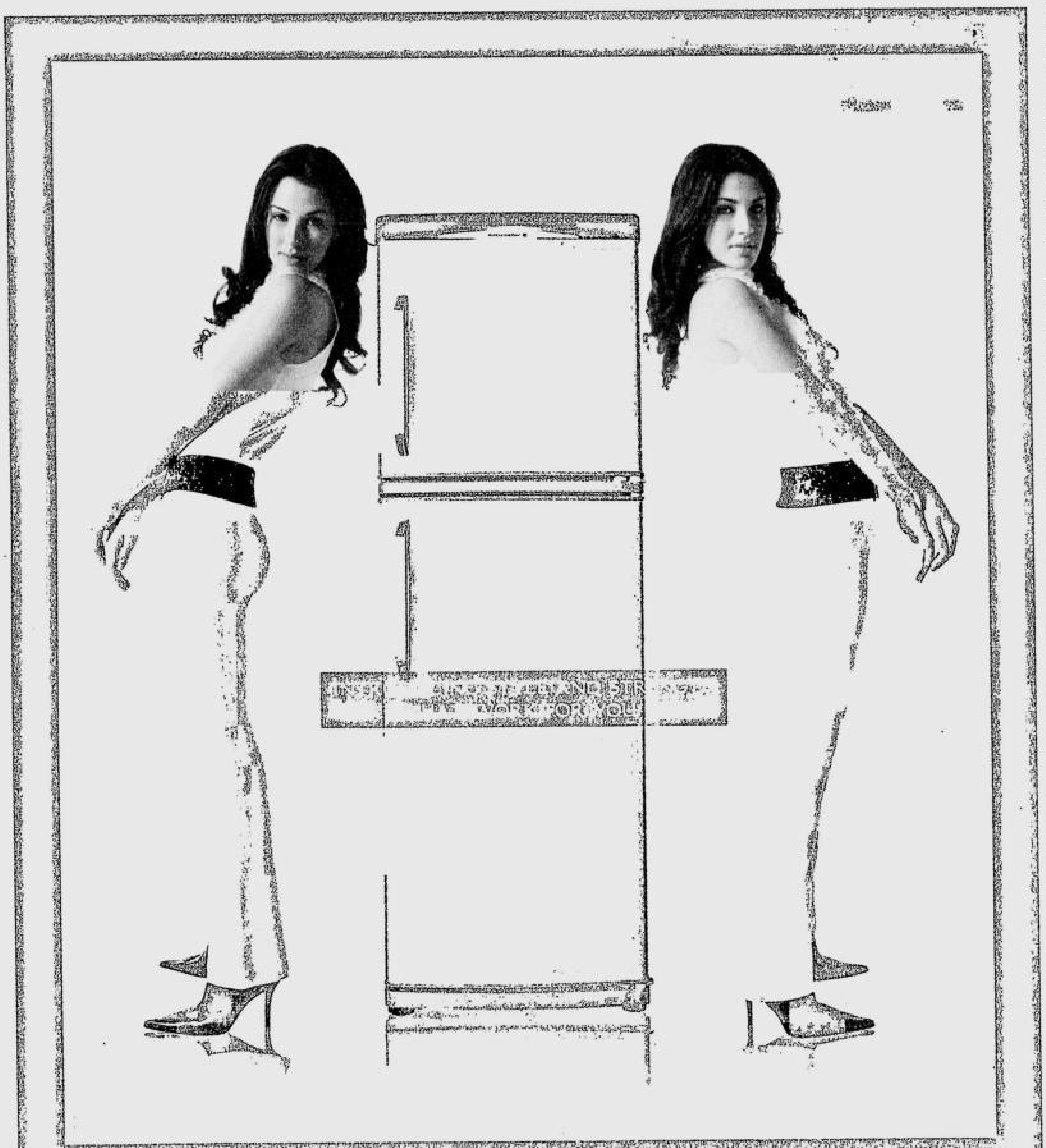
He said Campbell immediately called up WAC shortly after he arrived back in Hong Kong at around 10 p.m.

"He said he was not even allowed by immigration officials in the Philippines to make a phone call," said Dizon.

Campbell visited Calamba, Laguna, last May as part of the official delegation of International Labor Solidarity Mission that investigated the murders of union officers and their supporters.

During his visit, Campbell told the INQUIRER that the Philippines now ranked second to Colombia as the most dangerous place for trade union organizers.

Dizon said Campbell had no plans to join the protest rallies in Cebu during the Summit of Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations next week as he was scheduled to leave the country on Dec. 11. *Marlon Ramos Inquirer Southern Luzon, with a report from Jeffrey Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao*



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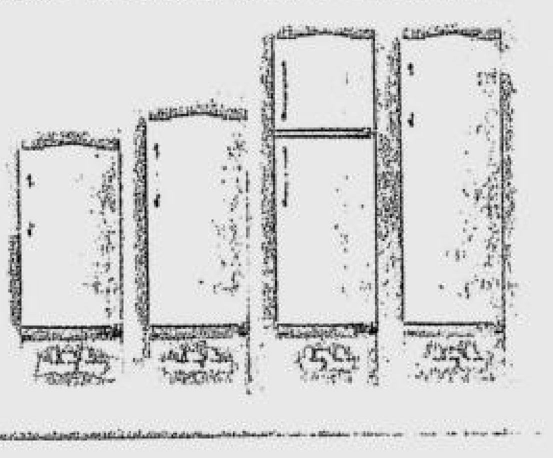
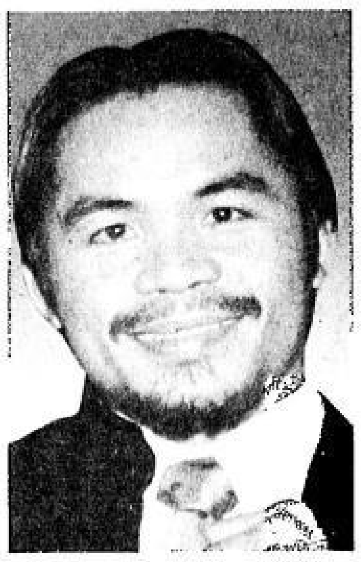


Cops warn Pacquiao against kidnap plot



PACQUIAO: Just ask me, if you need anything.

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—POLICE authorities here have warned boxing champion Manny Pacquiao of a kidnap plot against his family.

Senior Supt. Alfredo Toroctocon, the city police chief, said the kidnap plot by a kidnap syndicate—which he did not identify—was uncovered by police intelligence operatives late last month.

"We learned about the threat just after Manny Pacquiao's fight against Erik Morales," Toroctocon said.

Pacquiao, who knocked the Mexican Morales in their non-title fight in Las Vegas last Nov. 18, said he could not believe that he or his family would be targeted by kidnap groups.

He said if the report was true, he was appealing to those intending to do his family harm not to pursue their plan.

"I hope you won't do that. I staked my life for whatever I have now. I toiled hard for that, so please, think hard about it," Pacquiao said.

He suggested that people who are in need could just approach him.

"Just ask me, if you need anything," he said.

Pacquiao, whose boxing career has made him very wealthy, also makes a lot of money from endorsing consumer products, including a health supplement.

While no one knows exactly how much he has earned from his most recent fights, he has been assessed millions of pesos in taxes from his earnings by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Toroctocon said the police was still trying to find out from other state intelligence agencies if they have received similar kidnap reports.

But he said Pacquiao should not let his guard down even as the police was verifying the reports.

"He should not be over-confident," Toroctocon said in Filipino.

He said the police have already tightened Pacquiao's security since his arrival because of the threat.

Toroctocon said plainclothes policemen and intelligence agents were ordered to keep an eye on the southpaw and his family to prevent the syndicate from carrying out its plan. *Aquiles Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao*

NO MORE CEBU TRIP

Japan PM pushes through with RP visit

By Christine O. Avendaño

JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER Shintzo Abe will push through with his official visit to the country despite the postponement of the 12th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit in Cebu this weekend, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye announced yesterday.

Abe and his delegation, which includes his wife Madame Akie, were expected to arrive in the country late last night.

Abe and President Macapagal-Arroyo will stay in Manila for bilateral talks and grace the inauguration of the new 3rd generation light rail transit line.

The two leaders will also witness the signing of bilateral agreements during his Palace visit. These include the Exchange of Notes for Japan's Economic Cooperation, a Joint Statement, Japan-Philippines Taxation Treaties and an agreement on Introduction of Japan's Contribution to the Mindanao Peace Process.

Abe will start his day by attending wreath-laying ceremonies at the Rizal Monument before heading to Malacañang for the expanded bilateral meeting together with their respective officials.

Ribbon cutting and champagne pouring ceremonies are scheduled for the inaugural run of 3rd Generation Trains or 3G Trains of the LRT 1 line at the LRT-A compound in Pasay City. The two leaders are then expected to share a train ride up to Quirino LRT.

President Arroyo will host a state banquet tonight for Abe and his delegation.

Interviewed in Tokyo before his trip to the Philippines, Abe expressed disappointment over the summits' postponement.

"It's disappointing," Abe said of the postponement.

"It would have been a precious opportunity to hold talks with China and South Korea and seek further cooperation among the three nations," he told reporters before departure.

Abe had planned to hold fresh talks with Chinese and South Korean leaders as he tries to repair relations soured under his predecessor Junichiro Koizumi.

JAPANESE PRIME Minister Shinzo Abe embarks on his third overseas trip in as many months, this time to the Philippines. AP FILE PHOTO

However, Jiji Press said January summits in the Philippines would be difficult for Abe because parliament would be in session and he planned a visit to Europe early in the month.

"The schedules of the Chinese, South Korean and Japanese leaders will also be tight for a long time, so they won't be able to meet so easily," an unnamed foreign ministry official said, as quoted by Jiji Press. *With AFP report*

EU, Japan earmark more funds for South

COTABATO CITY—THE PEACE negotiations between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) got another boost when the European Union (EU) and Japan earmarked more funds for confidence-building measures, including the rehabilitation of war-torn areas in Mindanao.

Thelma Gecolea, EU public affairs officer, said on Thursday that the EU had set aside 1 million euros (P66 million) for the multi-donor initiative for Mindanao.

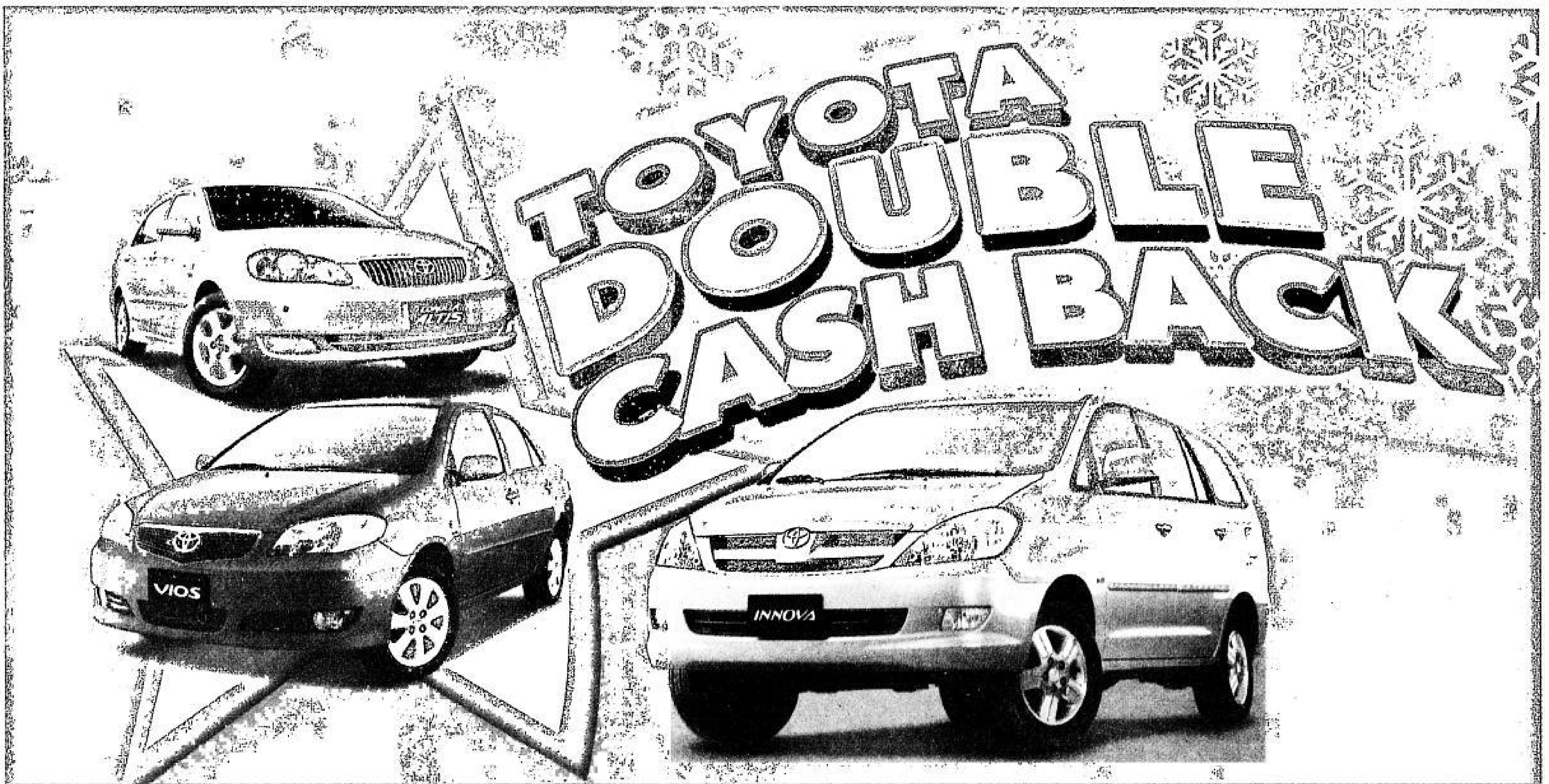
EU Ambassador to the Philippines Jan de Kok formally informed President Macapagal-Arroyo about funds when they met late last month in Davao City.

Gecolea said the financial contribution would be focused on confidence-building measures and reconstruction activities under the EU's Rapid Reaction Mechanism in Mindanao program.

EU earlier pledged 12 million euros (P792 million) to the Mindanao Health Sector Policy Support Program and an additional 12 million euros (P792 million) to the Mindanao Trust Fund (MTF).

The MTF, established in July 2005 by the World Bank, focuses on providing grants to conflict-affected areas.

Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki said they had earmarked P31.2 million for the construction of school buildings, post-harvest facilities, a livelihood training center for Bangsamoro women and potable water systems. *Jeoffrey Maitem and Allan Nawal, Inquirer Mindanao*



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Palace seeks P5B more for typhoon rehab

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG WANTS TO ADD AT LEAST P5 billion more to the country 's P1.126 trillion budget for 2007 for the rehabilitation of the provinces severely devastated by the three super typhoons that struck the country this year.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said the Cabinet plans to push for a multi-billion peso "omnibus" typhoon package when the senators and congressmen meet during the bicameral conference to reconcile the two chambers' version of the 2007 budget.

"We're rushing something and possibly transmit it with the President's endorsement to the Senate and the House for urgent action," Andaya said.

Andaya explained that the bicameral conference committee could still entertain an amendment to the proposed budget "even if that amendment is not in any of the two versions being reconciled."

Andaya said there was a need to put up a typhoon fund after the government found the damage wrought by typhoon Reming (which struck the country shortly after the Senate approved its version and the House had long approved its own) was very extensive.

"When (super typhoons) Milenyo and Paeng hit us, we were confident at that time that the budget as we submitted it to Congress can absorb whatever financial requirements will be needed to aid calamity areas. When Reming came along, we realized there was a need to recalibrate the budget," Andaya said.

Andaya did not give an exact figure on the size of the typhoon package but he said it could run in the billions.

But Albay Rep. Joey Salceda estimated that the relocation of the towns in the hazard zones of Mount Mayon in Albay would cost P5 billion.

Andaya said that despite the proposed increase, "the government would still stick with its budget deficit targets."

Andaya said the government would look for other items that could be minimized to accommodate the typhoon fund.

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Disease threatens homeless typhoon victims in Bicol

GUINOBATAN, ALBAY—MEDICAL aid was rushed to squalid evacuation sites yesterday amid dire warnings that poor sanitation could trigger an outbreak of disease among hundreds of mudslide survivors.

Babies and children sleep on the damp wooden floors of the elementary school turned into a temporary shelter for nearly 100 families in Guinobatan, where entire villages were swept away by volcanic debris last week.

Yet these unfortunates are relatively lucky. When supertyphoon "Reming" (international code name: Durian) hit last week, it created avalanches of volcanic mud that left more than 1,300 people dead or missing.

Sixteen-year-old mother Jennifer Pamplona is struggling to breastfeed her two-week-old baby, Sofia Jane, swaddled in a soiled canvass doubling as a diaper.

"She is not eating. She has been crying and has been feverish," Pamplona said, as husband, Radji, 20, sat dazed in a corner. "She was a week old when the mudslide struck and our house was instantly gone." Nearby, children walk in their bare feet, their faces full of grime as they await daily rations of boiled noodles and fish.

An elderly man who is visibly sick sits in one corner, just yards away from another mother and her children huddled over a piece of bread.

"Water is a huge problem, the toilets are filled to capacity and we don't have portable ones. There are so many children that are sickly now, and we can't continue to live like this," said Jun Espinas, 35, an engineer.

"The government must now start looking for relocation sites because we can't return to our village. It is gone," he said.

"We are desperate for medicines and infant formula," he said.

A disease surveillance team from the Department of Health was dispatched here to assess the situation and try to prevent an outbreak that could be fatal in these crowded communities.

They administered anti-measles and polio vaccines to children as well as gave them boosters to counter the common cold.

"There have been rising incidences of acute respiratory infections and loose bowel movements," said team leader Nancy Pastrana.

"The condition here is congested, this is a common breeding ground for diseases," she said, as she struggled to inject a vaccine into a crying three-year-old girl.

The elementary school was partially damaged when tonnes of volcanic debris cascaded down the slopes of Mayon volcano at the height of the typhoon last week, burying entire villages and leaving hundreds dead and missing.

Rehabilitation work has been excruciatingly slow, and while road networks are already open, huge delivery trucks containing relief aid have not been able to fully penetrate far-flung areas.

More than a week after the incident, bodies are still being dug from the rubble and quickly buried in mass graves not far from excavation sites.

Forensic experts have been exhuming bodies elsewhere to properly tag and identify them, while health officials have rushed to teach villagers proper ways of "managing the dead." *AFP*

Marinduque braces for 'Seniang'

By Philip C. Tubeza

PLEASE DON'T FORGET US.

This was the plea for help made by Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes yesterday in behalf of Marinduque residents as they brace for typhoon "Seniang," another potentially destructive howler which is expected to hit the island province over the weekend.

Still reeling from the devastation wrought by typhoon "Reming," Marinduque residents are crying out for help, Reyes said.

"My provincemates are a proud, generous and hard working people but we need help. After Albay, whether Seniang hits us or not, please don't forget to help Marinduque," he said.

Reyes said 95 percent of the island still had no electricity and many residents had no houses where they could seek shelter after the last typhoon left in its wake almost P1 billion worth of damaged houses and crops.

"We appeal to the Filipino people for help after they send aid to Albay. But just as some were taking notice that my province was also severely damaged, here is the possibility that Seniang will obliterate whatever little Reming left intact," Reyes said.

He said the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council estimated the total damage from typhoon Reming at P989.3 million as of Thursday.

Reyes said this amount "will easily surpass the billion peso mark as more reports are still expected to come from inaccessible barangays cut off by fallen debris and mudslides."

He said 48,918 families or 81 percent of the island's entire population were affected by the last howler with 9,171 houses totally destroyed while 21,992 houses suffered severe damage.

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'Nothing secret' about Palace cash gifts, says Antique gov

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—OFFICIALS ARE SINGING A different tune after receiving cash gifts from President Macapagal-Arroyo in a meeting here Tuesday.

Antique Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez yesterday admitted that she received P50,000 along with a Christmas card during the meeting.

"There's nothing secret about that because every year the President gives us cash gifts to help us with our expenses during the Christmas season," Perez told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

But League of the Cities of the Philippines (LCP) President and Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas, a staunch ally of the President who was in the same meeting with Perez, denied receiving any cash gift.

He said he was also unaware if municipal mayors in Western Visayas, who met with the President separately from the group of city mayors and governors at the Sarabia Manor Hotel, received P20,000 each during a meeting.

"I was not with the municipal mayors so I can only speak for myself," Treñas said in a telephone interview.

Two town mayors, Liberty Manzano of Candoni in Negros Occidental and another from Iloilo who asked not to be named, admitted they each received P20,000 from a member of the "staff" of President Arroyo. The money was placed inside an envelope along with a Christmas card showing a picture of the First Family.

The money, which Manzano described as a "Christmas gift" from the President, was handed to them after they signed a manifesto supporting charter change (Cha-cha) through a constituent assembly (Con-ass). One hundred one town mayors, 14 city mayors and four governors in Western Visayas signed the manifesto, which was presented to the President during their meeting.

But Treñas said they do not need gifts to support initiatives to amend the Constitution because the LCP has been advocating Cha-cha even before the Arroyo administration came to power.

"We are for constitutional change and for (Con-ass)," said Treñas. He pointed out that they also supported the signature campaign for a people's initiative, which was subsequently shot down as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

Treñas said their meeting with the President was not about the Con-con but touched on ongoing and planned projects in the region. He said the President asked for updates on the construction of international airports in Silay City in Negros Occidental and in Sta. Barbara and Cabatuan towns in Iloilo.

Perez was also quick to point out that the cash gifts had nothing to do with the moves of the President's allies in the House of Representatives to convene a Con-ass.

"Please don't put any malice (on the giving of cash gifts). There's nothing wrong with the President helping us with our expenses especially during this time of the year. We appreciate her help," said Perez. ***With a report from Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas***

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, a front-page article—"Inquirer starts relief drive for storm victims"—misstated the telephone number of the Caritas Disaster Management Team. For donations to the typhoon victims in Bicol, please contact 563-9298—not 563-9258.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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PICTURE OF THE YEAR: President George W. Bush hands back a crying baby during a July visit to Germany. REUTERS

Bush rebuffs Iraq Study Group

From page A1

"The vision is absolutely correct," Blair said at a news conference where the two leaders agreed, nevertheless, on a need for new approaches in Iraq.

"I thought we would succeed quicker than we did," Bush said. "And I am disappointed by the pace of success." When a reporter suggested Bush was denying even to himself how bad things are, the president tartly replied, "It's bad in Iraq. That help?"

The president and prime minister met a day after a bipartisan commission, in a blistering assessment, warned that "the situation in Iraq is grave and deteriorating" and recommended fundamentally different US policies. Its key recommendations called for direct engagement with Iran and Syria as part of a new diplomatic initiative and a pullback of all American combat brigades by early 2008, barring unexpected developments.

Unapologetic, defiant

While calling the report constructive, Bush and Blair took an unapologetic, almost defiant tone about their decisions and their resolve to keep up the struggle against extremists. The two leaders did not appear to agree with the commission's conclusion that America's ability to shape outcomes was diminishing and time was running out.

"We're going to succeed," the president said. "I believe we'll prevail."

Blair defined the challenge as "a struggle between freedom and democracy on the one hand and terrorism and sectarianism on the other. And it's a noble mission, and it's the right mission."

The leaders of the Iraq Study Group—Republican former Secretary of State James A. Baker III and former Rep. Lee Hamilton, a Democrat—defended the panel's recommendations during an appearance before the Senate Armed Services Committee and opened an intensive lobbying effort on Capitol Hill to press Bush to adopt their report wholesale.

Like fruit salad

One day after the study group rattled Washington with its bleak assessment of conditions in Iraq, cochair Baker said the White House must not treat the report "like a fruit salad and say, 'I like this but I don't like that.'" He called the study "a comprehensive strategy."

But the administration agreed with the commission's recommendation for a new round of Middle East diplomacy to deal with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will travel to the Middle East early next year, the State Department said. "I would expect in the days, weeks, months and years ahead that you are going to see her devote a tremendous amount of energy" to the region, spokesperson Sean McCormack said.

Blair said he would go to the Middle East next week, too, and Bush endorsed his mission.

Heavy price

Battered in the polls, Bush and Blair have paid a heavy price for the war. The Democratic takeover of Congress was attributed largely to voters' unhappiness with Bush and his Iraq policy. But the two leaders said it was essential to support moderates and reformers across the Middle East and to back the Iraqi government led by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki at a time of increasing sectarian violence.

In speaking to reporters, Bush came close to acknowledging mistakes. "You wanted frankness—I thought we would succeed quicker than we did," he said to a reporter who asked for candor. "And I am disappointed by the pace of success."

But he continued to talk about the war in the kind of ideological terms that the Iraq Study Group avoided. While the commission settled on stability as a realistic American goal for Iraq, Bush cast the conflict as part of a broader struggle between good and evil, totalitarianism and democracy. If extremists triumphant in the Middle East, Bush warned, "history will look back on our time with unforgiving clarity and demand to know what happened. How come free nations did not act to preserve the peace?"

Bush and Blair were deeply skeptical of the commission's call for direct engagement with Iran and Syria. Bush said a proposed international conference to help Iraq was an interesting idea, but Iran and Syria "shouldn't bother to show up" unless they stop financing terror.

Blair said Iran had been a troublemaker particularly in southern Iraq. "It's been basically arming, financing, supporting terrorism," he said.

Bush ruled out talks with Iran unless it stepped away from a suspected nuclear weapons program by suspending uranium enrichment. He accused Syria of undermining the fragile government of Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Saniora. Beyond that, Bush said, Syria should "stop allowing money and arms to cross your border into Iraq. Don't provide safe haven for terrorist groups." *AP, New York Times*

Oscar winner joins RP fight ...

From page A1

Sensibility" dropped by an advocacy program in London and threw her unequivocal support behind the Philippine government, which was purportedly being pressured into scrapping the revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the new Milk Code.

"I'm sending my message of support to the people of the Philippines, saying people around the world are with you and urge you to stand up to this outrageous pressure," she wrote in a message of support card.

Thompson was referring to the supposed pressure from the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

Last August, chamber president Thomas Donahue wrote President Macapagal-Arroyo, warning that the IRR would have "unintended negative consequences for investors' confidence in the predictability of business law in the Philippines."

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, whose agency had drafted the new IRR, earlier described the letter as a form of "pressure" and "subtle blackmail" from what he called "big business."

'Courageous action'

"I'm appalled to hear about this attack on the Philippine Department of Health's courageous action," Thompson wrote. "Surely, every government has the right to regulate the marketing of baby food as they see fit."

The Donahue letter complained that the IRR put limits on the marketing of milk formula products by making it a requirement for companies to put health warnings on product labels.

"The impact of aggressive marketing [on health] is well-established and is something I've been personally concerned with for years," Thompson wrote.

Besides Thompson, the former Bishop of Coventry, Simon Barrington-Ward, was also sympathetic to the Philippine cause for breast-feeding.

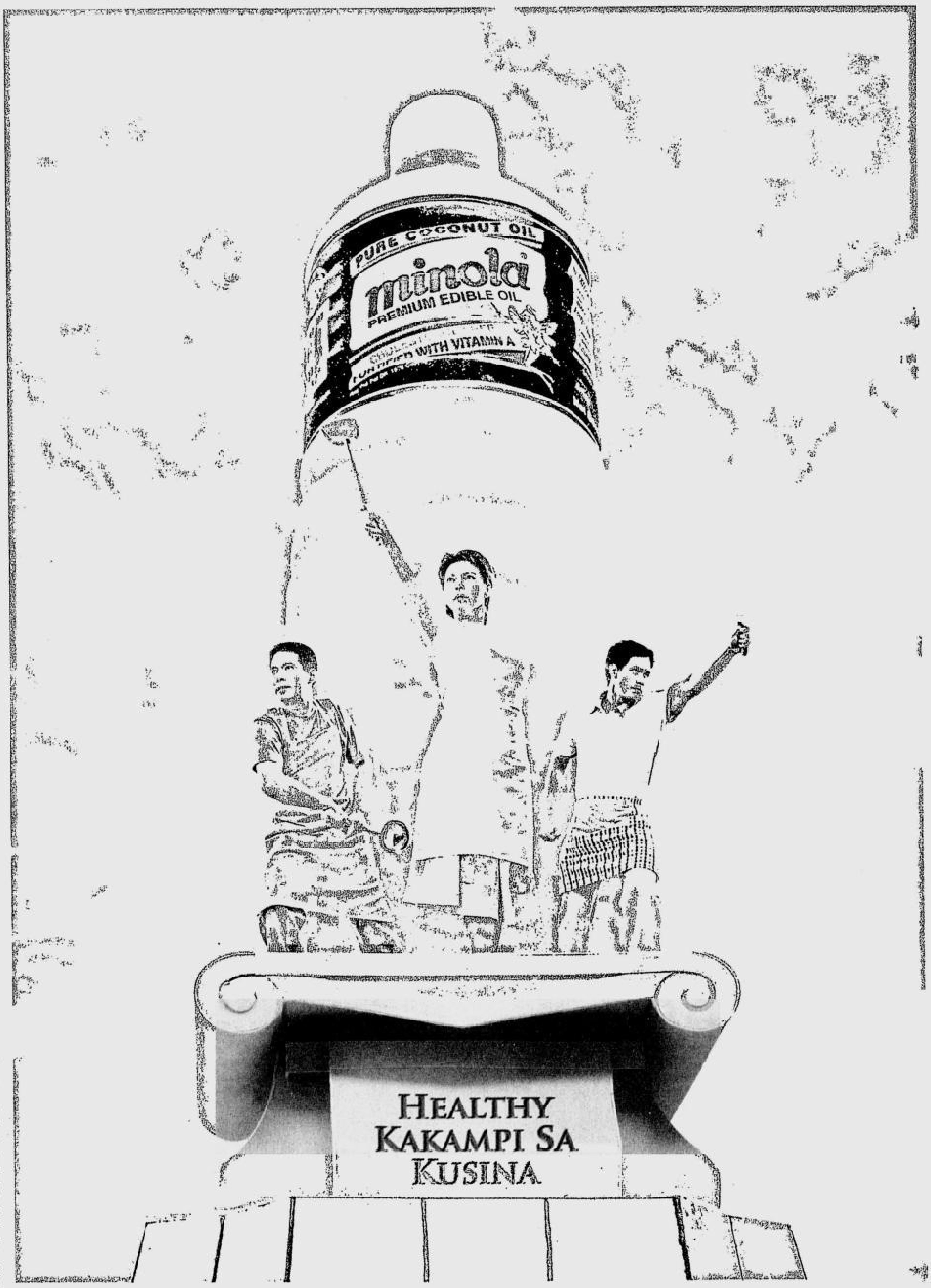
SC 'regrettable' ruling

"I wholeheartedly support the campaign against the disgraceful action of companies and the understandable but utterly regrettable decision of the Philippine Supreme Court which, in the face of the appalling power of these companies, has allowed them to stop the (DOHs) commendable action," Barrington-Ward wrote in a separate support card.

The high court reversed a previous ruling and issued a temporary restraining order on the IRR days after Donahue had written the President, the International Baby Food Action Network noted in an e-mail to the INQUIRER.

The IBFAN, a network of more than 200 advocacy groups in around 100 countries, organized the London campaign in support of the Philippines. It advocates breast-feeding espousing the natural milk's inherent benefits over infant formula products.

Thompson's card, along with those of other supporters in England, was sent to the Philippine Embassy there yesterday.



GAWA SA COCONUT • HELPS FIGHT INFECTIONS DAHIL ITO'Y LAURIC OIL • GARANTISADONG MAY VITAMIN A • PURO'T LESS ANG TILAMSIK • NO TRANS FAT • NO CHOLESTEROL • NO PRESERVATIVES

More groups join CBCP in Luneta rally vs Cha-cha

From page A1

network of some 4,000 evangelical churches.

"We will be there," Pascua told the INQUIRER in reference to the Dec. 15 prayer rally that is expected to gather all Catholic bishops based in Metro Manila, including Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales.

"We're part of the greater feelings of the people against what's happening at the House. Our Congress is sworn to defend the Constitution, but our representatives are actually destroying it," he said.

Massing in the streets

Critics of the Arroyo administration said they would mass in the streets leading to the Batasang Pambansa on Tuesday to make life difficult for administration representatives participating in the Con-ass.

At a news conference in Quezon City, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and representatives of the Left and the United Opposition (UNO) called on the people to gather in front of the Batasan complex as a sign of protest.

But Guingona cautioned against setting up barricades and preventing the administration allies from doing their thing.

"If we do that, we will be guilty of the things we are accusing them of doing. If [the House majority] want to make fools of themselves, let them do it," he said.

Guingona said next week would be "a turning point" for the nation.

"Let us rally around the true Filipino flag. Let us rally around the true rule of law. Let us rally for the future of our country. Let's keep the fire burning," he said.

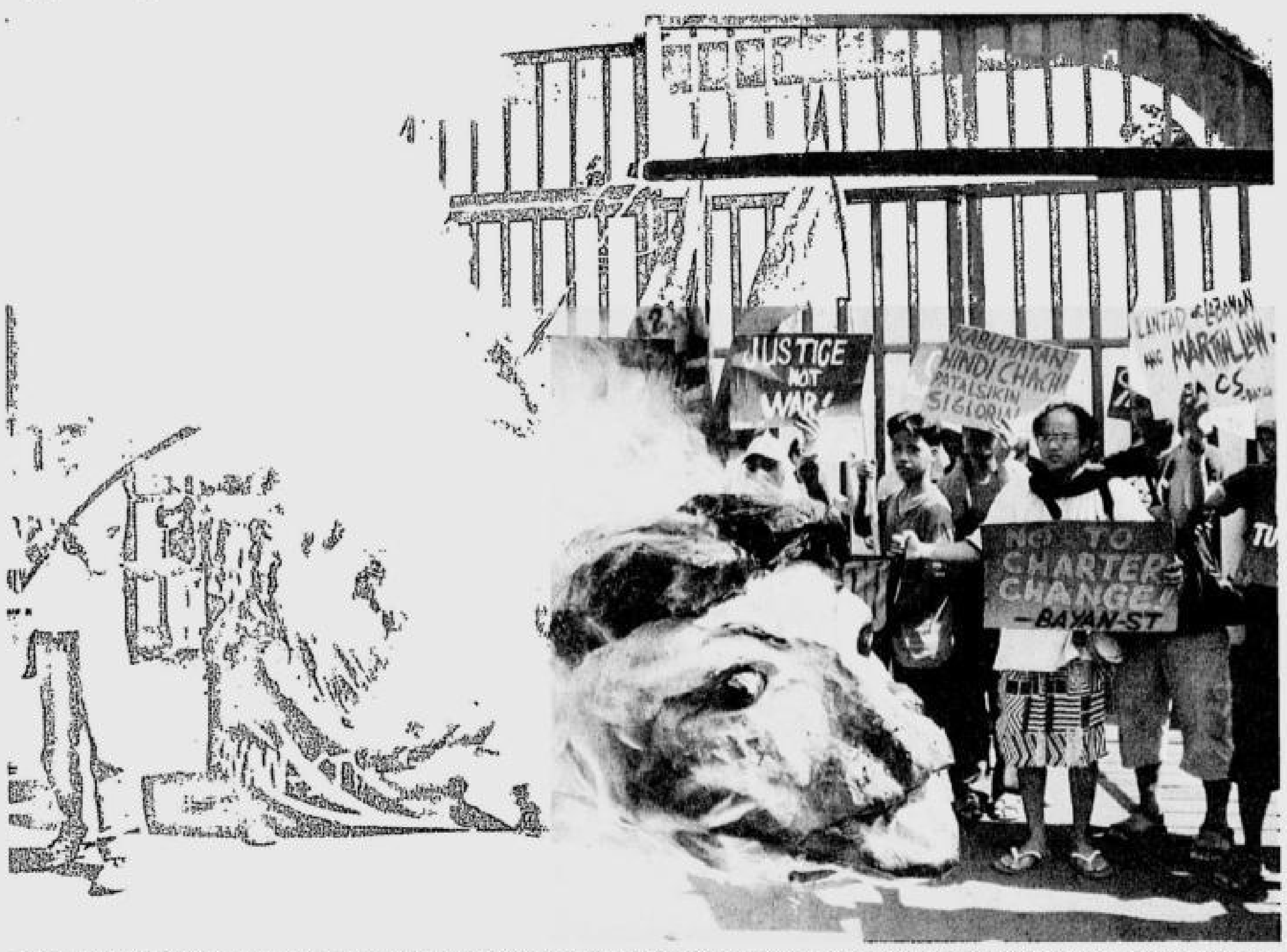
The groups said they would also take part in the Dec. 15 prayer rally of the CBCP.

"We are greater in number this time, now that we are fired by a more flagrant violation of the Constitution. More people are realizing [the issue]," Guingona said.

Congestion

Renato Reyes Jr., secretary general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), said the mass mobilization would cause huge protest actions on Commonwealth Avenue and Batasan Road.

"The streets leading to the Batasan will be congested because of so many protesters. There will be school walkouts, city marches, vigils, teach-ins, assemblies and other forms of protest activities throughout the period that the [Con-ass] is convened," Reyes said.


JUSTICE NOT WAR
KABUHAYAN HINDI CHA-CHA PATALSIKIN SI GLORIA
NO TO CHARTER CHANGE! —BAYAN-ST
MARTIAL LAW

DENOUNCING rising cases of human rights violations against militants and their opposition to Charter change, demonstrators gather at Camp Aguinaldo to stage their protest. REUTERS/ROMEO RANOCO

Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said the administration representatives should be made to suffer as they proceeded with the House-only Con-ass.

"Let them have that problem if in so doing it would mean less problems for the Filipino people," he said.

The other groups represented at the news conference were the Black and White Movement, the Oust Gloria Movement, and the Philippine Guardian Brotherhood Inc.

Makati Mayor and UNO president Jejomar Binay said protest actions would be mounted next week in various cities and provinces nationwide.

Leah Navarro of the Black and White Movement said a noise barrage would also be held.

"This will be done to make them see that the protests are not done only by those in imperial Manila," Navarro said.

Thief in the night

The Palace-backed Con-ass has also drawn outrage from the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines, an organization of more than 360 congregations including the Franciscans, Dominicans and Jesuits.

The AMRSP described as a "travesty" the Dec. 7 marathon session that saw the House majority unilaterally adopting the resolution convening the Con-ass.

"Like a thief in the night, it robbed us of our rights, of an election, and a Constitution," it said in a statement.

"The undue haste to revise the Constitution even by immoral means is an abominable act. This obstinate greed and lust for power and wealth will lead this nation and people to ruin," the group said.

The AMRSP warned that the Con-ass would "lead to further instability and a tighter grip [by the Palace and its allies] on the reins of power."

It added: "First, they tried it through a bogus people's initiative and the Supreme Court struck this down. And now, they wish to ram down our throats a constituent assembly that will revise or amend the Constitution and prolong their terms of office.

"The audacity is mind-boggling but the intention is crystal clear—to perpetuate themselves in power."

The AMRSP statement also represented the sentiments of its mission partners—the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, Task Force Orientation of Church Personnel, Task Force on Urban Conscientization, Urban Missionaries, Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission, and Women and Gender Commission.

Elmer Labog, chair of the militant labor alliance Kilusang Mayo Uno, said it was backing the CBCP call for the faithful to fight the Con-ass.

He said that with Trade Secretary Peter Favila drumming up the business sector's call to prioritize the incorporation of liberalized economic provisions in the proposed changes to the Charter, the KMU was wary that the Con-ass would serve as the "illegal and immoral springboard" in doing away with workers' rights.

"For the workers, this will mean more exploitation under cheap and flexible labor, as well as unhampered attacks on the workers' basic rights," Labog said.

'Ultimate lapdog'

He said members of KMU and its affiliate groups were preparing to join the nationwide protest actions to be launched by Bayan on Dec. 12.

But as early as yesterday in Davao City, Bayan members massed in front of the residence of House Majority Floor Leader Prospero Nograles to protest the Con-ass. Nograles was not there at the time.

Bayan-Southern Mindanao secretary general Ariel Casilao said militant groups would block what he said was "another desperate action" by proponents of Charter change (Cha-cha) to amend or revise the 1987 Constitution preparatory to a shift to the unicameral parliamentary form of government.

He said Nograles, whom he described as "the ultimate lapdog" of President Macapagal-Arroyo was "daydreaming of becoming the deputy prime minister by next year, in exchange for the people's aspirations for genuine change."

Call for support

Even the self-exiled Communist Party of the Philippines founding chair Jose Maria Sison called on the public to support the planned protest actions in Rizal Park and other parts of the country.

"It is fine that so many formidable and respected institutions, organizations and personages, reflecting the common interests and sentiments of the Filipino people in their tens of millions, have stood up and voiced loud and clear their opposition to the Charter change scheme of the Arroyo regime," Sison said in an e-mail from Utrecht, the Netherlands. *With reports from Jerome Aning in Manila; Jeffrey Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

22 senators close ranks, vow to boycott …

From page A1

Roberto Nazareno on Thursday afternoon requesting their presence in the Con-ass set to begin on Tuesday morning.

"This [process] is not legal; we're not going to honor this invitation," Villar told the INQUIRER.

Sen. Franklin Drilon said the chamber was solidly behind this position. "We don't want to participate in an illegal and unconstitutional assembly because our attendance will give it some color of legitimacy. Nobody will attend," he said.

In a surprise move, administration Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. announced at a press briefing that he would not join the Con-ass.

Revilla was the 22nd senator to sign a new Senate resolution expressing the sense of the chamber that the House's attempt to amend the Charter without the Senate voting separately was unconstitutional.

The resolution, which only Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has not signed, is expected to be adopted on the floor on Monday.

Said Revilla, a close ally of Ms Arroyo: "I am not against Charter change per se. I must only disagree with the process being spirited by the House to amend the Constitution unilaterally, and I cannot take part in what I believe is a fatally flawed procedure.

"Let it be said, I will take no part in the supposed constituent assembly being orchestrated by the House alone."

'Bogus' invitation

Hours after the House majority voted early Thursday morning to approve Resolution No. 197, which substituted for Resolution No. 1450, Nazareno transmitted a communication to each of the senators informing them of the Con-ass and requesting their attendance.

But Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said the invitation was "bogus" because Resolution No. 197 convening Congress into a Con-ass was in itself a fake resolution with "no legal effect whatsoever."

"It binds neither the House nor the Senate because of its illegality," he said, warning:

"By their own illegal act, this 'final push' by the House of Representatives is turning out to be the final nail in the coffin for Cha-cha at this time."

Pangilinan further argued that because it had yet to adopt and approve a resolution on the Con-ass, the Senate could not take part in it, much less in an assembly "illegally called" by the House.

Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Edgardo Angara also declared they would ignore the invitation.

Biazon said the invitation appeared like he was "being invited to a birthday party, and not to the serious business of a joint action called by two houses of Congress."

"This has no legal value," he said, pointing out that it originated from Resolution 197 that, he said, ignored the constitutional intent of a bicameral Congress.

Angara, who is proposing Charter change after the May 2007 elections following a massive information campaign, said he was "in favor of Cha-cha" but not of "pushing for Cha-cha in a wrong, improper, unlawful way."

The same position

On Thursday, Senate Pro Tempore Juan Flavier and Sen. Lito Lapid, close allies of the President, and Senators Richard Gordon, Ralph Recto and Juan Ponce Enrile categorically said they would not honor the invitation.

The rest of the senators were expected to adopt the same position.

"That's an indication of what they feel about the Con-ass," Villar said when asked if the 22 senators who had signed the Senate resolution would snub the assembly.

Santiago had indicated that she would join the Con-ass only if "a substantial number" of senators would do so.

On Monday, a day before the Con-ass, the Senate committee on constitutional amendments will tackle pending proposals to amend the Charter through a Con-ass and a constitutional convention, including House Resolution No. 26 convening Congress to propose amendments or revisions.

Those invited to speak are Fr. Joaquin Bernas SJ, retired Justice Vicente Mendoza, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde.

Disregarded rules

Adding his voice to the chorus of condemnation, former Senate President Jovito Salonga said the House-only Con-ass would fall by the wayside.

"What happened in the House is fraudulent and unthinkable, except that you're dealing with people in the lower House," he said in a phone interview.

"[But] with all the decent elements in civil society fighting it, I don't see how the Con-ass will succeed," he added.

Salonga said the two-day marathon sessions that led to the approval of Resolution No. 197 were void from the start because the House majority had "changed the rules to suit their selfish interest."

"The rules of the House contemplate the participation of the Senate. They amended the rules in utter disregard of the Senate," he said, adding:

"You can't have a Con-ass without the participation of the Senate. Simple common sense shows that even changing the name of a town requires bicameral approval. And now we're talking of amending the whole Constitution."

Salonga, who was Senate President from 1987 to 1991 during the turbulent Aquino administration, said the invitation sent out by Nazareno was "a confirmation of their fraudulent act."

"It's like inviting someone to participate in an obscene act," he said, even as he pointed out that the participation of any number of senators in Con-ass would not lend legitimacy to the proceedings. "You can't legitimize an act that is wrong *ab initio.*"

John O hales House to SC

FORMER SEN. JOHN OSMEÑA YESTERDAY filed a petition before the Supreme Court questioning the act of the House of Representatives to convene into a constituent assembly to propose Charter amendments without the participation of the Senate.

In a 24-page taxpayer's petition, Osmeña asked the high court to interpret the contentious provision of Art. XVII, Sec. 1 of the Constitution to mean that the Senate and the House should vote separately in establishing itself as a constituent assembly.

"The intent of the House to railroad the amendment of the Constitution cannot be emphasized enough," the former opposition senator said.

He noted how Speaker Jose de Venecia, "in numerous public news interviews, intimated on the move by the House, saying there will be a Charter that shifts the nation to the parliamentary system and replaces Congress with a unicameral parliament by Dec. 15."

Named respondents in the suit was De Venecia and the entire House. *Armand N. Nocum*

GMA may drop Con-ass

From page A1

down given the "people's outrage," the planned Church-led massive anti-Charter change protest on Friday and the warning from El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde that a "Senate-less" Con-ass would be unacceptable to Filipinos.

The Ulap member said the local executives sought a meeting with her on Thursday noon at Malacanang.

In that closed-door meeting, the local executives asked her to withdraw support from Con-ass, citing the "public's outrage against forcing Charter change through Con-ass," said the source, who was among those at the meeting.

"They told the President they would come out with a strong statement opposing Con-ass," said the source.

The source said Ms Arroyo, who was with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita at the meeting, told the governors: "I will think about it."

House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said as much.

"PGMA and allies are preparing to back off from Con-ass. Public pressure is too much even for them," said Cayetano, quoting a ranking member of the House majority who, he said, had called an opposition lawmaker.

Cayetano praised the majority for "heeding the people's voice."

"I hope they start focusing on needed reforms rather than hatching another Plan B to stop the 2007 elections," said the lawmaker from Taguig-Pateros.

Cayetano claimed it was evident that Ms Arroyo was trying to "save her skin" at the expense of the Speaker and her allies in the House.

Making amends

"At least, the Speaker and his congressional allies are willing to face the people, admit the mistake and make amends. I can't say the same for the President who, we know, is really the one behind both the people's initiative and Con-ass."

He said the possible House move to stand down was another "God-save-the queen ploy."

"JDV and allies have not only saved her from two impeachments. They will now take the fall for her for the failed Con-ass bid," Cayetano said.

A Cabinet member confirmed the opposition claim that the House would step back from its Con-ass plan.

"If she does not withdraw support, she'll become the issue," said the Cabinet official, who asked not to be identified.

Contacted by phone, House deputy secretary general Noel Albano denied that the House was backtracking from Cha-cha.

"The Speaker's commitment is firm. The announcement tomorrow will be two dramatic steps to be taken by House concerning the (constituent) assembly," he said.

Albano also described as "pure hallucination" rumors that De Venecia would resign his post.

"Withdrawal? Negative. Resign? Negative. I was with the Speaker the whole afternoon," said Albano, pointing out that the rumors could have come from the opposition or those with "malicious minds."

"We're calling a press con tomorrow. The Speaker will be with the leading members of the majority coalition," said Albano who, however, refused to preempt the Speaker's announcement.

"I'm not at liberty to say so," he said.

According to Escudero, some members of the ruling coalition in the House are also distancing themselves from Con-ass, which will entail postponement of the May 2007 midterm elections for six months.

"They want Ma-el (May elections), not No-el (no elections). If the pressure is maintained, I think they will cave in," said Escudero when asked if De Venecia would backtrack from pursuing Con-ass.

"JDV is trying to buy time. A lot of political maneuverings are going on as we speak," he stressed.

To save the country from a looming constitutional crisis, Escudero called on De Venecia to give up "what has come to be a misadventure."

"It would be wise on their part to heed the call of the people—which is to stop Con-ass—and hedge a constitutional crisis. Be a true representative of the people," said the opposition stalwart.

An opposition lawmaker who asked not to be named so as not to preempt De Venecia's announcement said President Arroyo convinced the Speaker yesterday to go slow on the planned shift to a parliamentary system through Con-ass.

"But since the Speaker is a veteran politician, he could make a last-ditch appeal to senators to support Con-ass or even a constitutional convention," said the lawmaker.

The lawmaker said De Venecia asked the President during their talk yesterday that "he will be the one to make the announcement to soften the impact."

Escudero praised his colleagues in the House minority for standing up for "what is right." *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

No inventory of seized 'hot meat' from China , says NBI

By Leila B. Salaverria

A TEAM FROM THE POLICE AND one from the Bureau of Customs failed to conduct a proper physical inventory of the seized frozen meat from China after it was confiscated in August for misdeclaration and later destroyed, according to the National Bureau of Investigation.

In its initial report to Deputy Commissioner Celso Templo, who had requested the NBI to investigate the circumstances behind the shipment, the NBI said there was no accounting conducted on the contents of four reefer vans by the two teams that took custody of the shipment after its seizure.

The NBI report said an estimated 40 to 50 percent of the contents of the vans appeared to be missing when the vans were inspected later. The remaining contents of the vans were later destroyed because of their rotting condition.

The shipment was seized by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, which is also part of the Task Force on Anti-Smuggling, and was later turned over to the BOC.

"The NBI investigating team noticed that neither the apprehending team nor the Auction and Cargo Disposal Division which was tasked to take custody of the items conducted the proper physical inventory of the seized items," the NBI report said, adding that the NBI subsequently ordered the weighing of the seized items.

According to Templo, the inventory of seized items should have been done as part of proper procedure.

"When I was district collector and confiscated items were being turned over to us, of course we would ask what are we being given, how many are these. The other party should also be able to tell us the quantity of what is being turned over to us," he said.

The shipment was seized in August by the CIDG after it was apparently able to leave the BOC premises. Upon examination, it was shown that while it was declared to contain frozen mackerel, the shipment also consisted of frozen meat.

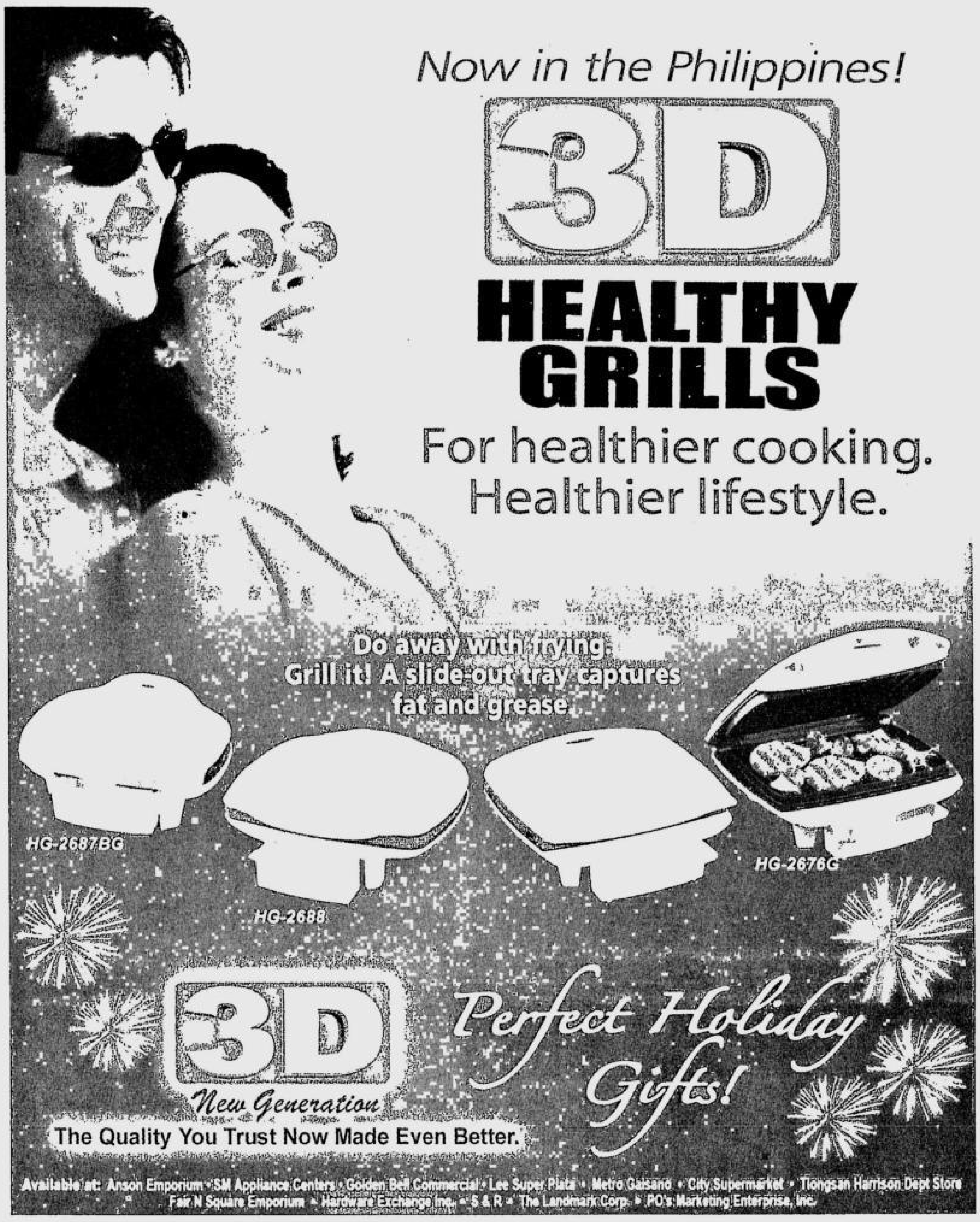
The shipment was later turned over to the Sigma Seven Storage Warehousing at the Manila Harbour Centre while undergoing forfeiture proceedings at the BOC. The items were later forfeited in favor of government and were supposed to be buried.

The Bureau of Animal Industry requested that it be allowed to inspect the shipment prior to the burial, but the request was turned down by Sigma. The shipment was later inspected and it was then discovered that 40 to 50 percent of the vans' contents were missing, the NBI said.

The shipment was supposedly to be buried in Pampanga, but this did not push through after local officials objected, saying they had not been informed about it and there was no dumping site there.

BOC Commissioner Napoleon Morales subsequently ordered the shipment destroyed after being weighed by the NBI, saying its rotting condition posed a health risk to the public.

Templo said he had asked the NBI to investigate the incident to dispel any suspicion that the BOC would whitewash the probe of its own men who could be liable for any anomaly related to the frozen meat shipment.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HK pop star testifies vs RP maid on photo theft

HONG KONG—HONG KONG pop star Jacky Cheung has testified in court against a Filipino maid who allegedly stole a letter and three photos from him, news reports said Friday.

Cheung, one of Chinese pop's biggest acts, on Thursday told a Hong Kong court he had decided to fire the defendant, 30-year-old Preslyn-Saga Catacutan, because she denied stealing the photos, the Apple Daily newspaper reported.

If convicted, Catacutan faces a maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment.

It said the photos included pictures of Cheung and his wife, retired actress May Lo, of Lo and a friend, and Lo's passport photo.

The pop star was quoted as saying he reported the matter to police after he also caught the maid with one of his letters and noticed other suspicious behavior.

"I asked her why she took my letter. She said she took it by accident. I can't accept that explanation. Add to that, our surveillance footage showed her using my computer and my driver claims she eavesdrops on our conversations. I felt very unsettled and decided to notify the police," Cheung reportedly said.

Cheung also testified that Catacutan, who has pleaded innocent to theft charges, was a smart and capable worker, Apple Daily reported.

Another paper, the Ming Pao Daily News, quoted Catacutan as saying in court that she had discovered the three photos on the floor and in the trash can at Cheung's home earlier this year, and had kept them with the singer's permission.

Catacutan said she had found the letter when Cheung's home was being renovated and held it for safekeeping, but forgot to return it.

The woman's hometown in the Philippines wasn't immediately known.

Court spokeswoman Jaime Or said she could not confirm the reports about Thursday's proceedings.

AP

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, December 9, 2006
1st Week of Advent
Juan Diego

1st Reading: Is 30:19-21, 23-26
Gospel: Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5, 6-8

Jesus went around all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom, and he cured every sickness and disease. When he saw the crowds he was moved with pity, for they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the workers are only few. Ask the master of the harvest to send workers to gather his harvest."

Then he called his 12 disciples to him and gave them authority over the unclean spirits to drive them out and to heal every disease and sickness.

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Commentary

God's words in Isaiah remind us of all that God does for his people. God is gracious to us, hearing our cries/prayers, giving us bread and water, being our Teacher, showing us the way and teaching us right from wrong. God gives seed, water, and harvest, and animals for toil and sustenance. But our God judges, both destroying and binding up our wounds. But we are told that we must be merciful to know the mercy of God. In Jesus everyone knows the mercy of God: healing, life, forgiveness, remembrance and goodness that is stronger than injustice. We have been gifted. Do we give as we have been given?

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Asean Summit reset under terror, typhoon threat

From page A1

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo was telling reporters that everything was fine.

"We are like Moses parting the waters," Romulo had said at a news briefing, referring to reports of terrorist threats and to the formidable preparation problems the organizers had to surmount.

The abrupt deferment was officially attributed to a "major weather disturbance that will affect Cebu" when leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus six partner-states formally convene here starting on Monday.

The summit, still to be hosted by Cebu, has been moved to early January, according to the Asean-Philippines National Organizing Committee in a press statement issued at 5 p.m. yesterday.

The Asean foreign ministers have also postponed their meetings in Cebu planned to be held this weekend ahead of the summit, Romulo said, according to the Associated Press.

The ministers planned to decide at a breakfast meeting today when to reschedule their talks, Romulo said.

The postponement was made a day after the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom and, later, Japan advised their citizens to avoid traveling to the province during the summit week because of an unspecified terrorist plot—a warning strongly dismissed by national and local hosting officials.

Most agonizing

"This is the most agonizing decision we have to make," Ambassador Marciano Paynor, the committee secretary general, said in a press briefing at the newly built Cebu. International Convention Center, a P500-million facility specially constructed for the summit.

"The decision was made in full consideration of the safety and welfare of the participants, the private individuals and groups involved in the different aspects of holding this important event, and the officials who are carrying out the preparations," Paynor said, reading out this statement.

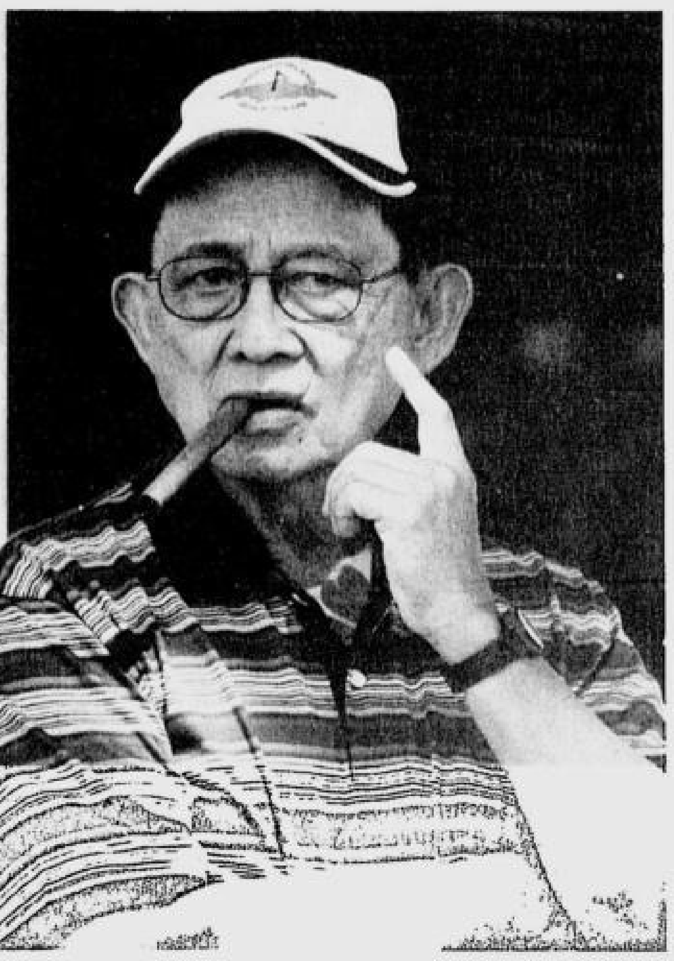
"This will allow the government to give its undivided attention to any effects this major weather disturbance may have on the parts of the Philippines it passes through," he added.

The host government, he stressed, arrived at this decision in consultation with the governments of the leaders participating in the Cebu summit.

Many doubts

In the open forum, Paynor had to parry questions that raised doubts over the real reason for the postponement, in view of the foreign travel advisories issued about the summit the previous day. Two of the advisories came from Asean "dialogue partners" Australia and Japan.

RICARDO CARDINAL VIDAL during the blessing of the Cebu International Convention Center in Mandaue City hours before the Asean Summit was postponed. EDWIN BACASMAS



WHAT, ME WORRY? Former President Fidel Ramos in a pensive mood while waiting to tee off Coral Reef Golf Club in Mactan. He was to be part of the Eminent Persons Group of the Asean Summit. EDWIN BACASMAS

"The decision was based on the weather disturbance alone," Paynor replied to one of many questions stemming from the advisories.

"The primary responsibility of the host is the safety of its guests. We don't want them (leaders) to be here if something like a Milenyo passes through," he said, referring to the supertyphoon that devastated Metro Manila and parts of Luzon in October.

In Manila, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Asean organizing committee advised President Macapagal-Arroyo of its decision and that she agreed with the recommendation to put off the summit to January.

"We would prefer to err on the side of caution," Bunye told reporters.

No room for disappointment

Asked whether the President was disappointed, Bunye said, "I think this is a force majeure that you cannot disregard so I don't think there is room for disappointment. It's not a cancellation, it's just a postponement."

Bunye said the decision was "carefully deliberated" upon and took into consideration "not only the safety of the heads of states but the convenience of the participants as well as the psychological effect of holding a (summit) amid a possible calamity."

He said putting off the summit was better than holding it "in an atmosphere where probably there might be death and destruction all around us."

"If that should happen, this would go against the grain of the theme of the summit which is One Caring and Sharing Community," Bunye said.

Bunye said this was not the first time that a big event, such as an Asean summit, had been postponed by a host country. He said that Indonesia postponed a similarly big event in 2004 in the aftermath of the deadly tsunami that killed thousands.

Nothing to do with terror

He also insisted the decision had nothing to do with reported terrorist threats.

The reported threats included a report in Manila that police were investigating the possibility that terrorists would sneak toxic chemicals into Cebu during the summit, a source at the National Bureau of Investigation said. He said all agencies had been alerted to the reported threat. *(Story on Page A8.)*

Paynor said that 10 minutes before the news briefing, he was even getting updates from the weather bureau saying that "Seniang, which was earlier classified as a storm, has now intensified into a typhoon … that will hit northern Cebu, with peripheral effect on central Cebu."

As of 11 a.m. yesterday, the forecast was that Seniang already had a "70 percent chance of hitting Cebu," he said, adding: "The leaders start arriving tomorrow (Dec. 9) and the day after tomorrow, exactly when the storm is in the Philippines and will be affecting Cebu."

No coming-out-party

As to the new summit schedule, Paynor said this would depend on mutually agreed upon dates among Asean members and its dialogue partners.

The postponement cut short what officials had touted as the province's "coming-out party" as a premier convention venue outside Metro Manila.

Until yesterday's downer, officials of three neighboring cities—Cebu, Mandaue, and Lapu-lapu—where the meetings' venues and major accredited hotels are located, had been trumpeting the summit's long-term boost to the local economy.

At the CICC, a Mass held to bless the facility was celebrated by Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, some six hours before Paynor broke the news.

"This is painful and I really feel for the people who put their hearts out on this," said Mayor Tomas Osmeña of Cebu.

The Philippines had rushed to get ready to host the meeting—building a new convention center from scratch that was still getting the final touches as preliminary meetings started—after Burma (Myanmar) pulled out as host eight months ago amid criticism over its human rights record and failure to implement promised steps toward democracy.

"I feel a little sad, not for myself… but I know that a lot of Cebuanos have been preparing feverishly for the summit date," Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia said of the postponement. "However, it will give us more time to perfect what we are supposed to present. We look at the positive side, we move on and we move forward."

Earlier yesterday, summit organizers had set into motion an alternative plan for next week's activities.

Emergency meeting

The Cebu City Council in an emergency session declared the city under "imminent danger" from the storm to enable it to draw from its calamity fund

Cebu officials earlier announced that local disaster officials had been alerted and that the different local government units had set up contingency plans and formed quick response team in case of emergency, like a power blackout or fallen trees along the ceremonial routes.

Hundreds of passengers were stranded at the city's ports after the Philippine Coast Guard grounded small inter-island vessels leaving Cebu. Thousands had wanted to go home to nearby islands like Bohol because of the 9-day break for the summit starting this weekend until Dec. 17.

With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Margaux C. Ortiz in Manila, and Irene R. Sino Cruz and Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas

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NBI info: Terrorists planning chemical attacks

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF Investigation (NBI) received intelligence reports that terrorists may have been planning to use toxic chemicals during the Asean Summit in Cebu, an intelligence officer revealed yesterday.

The officer said the NBI received the "raw" report on Monday, or five days before organizers of the Summit announced the postponement of the event to January, citing the threat of a storm as reason.

"We received intelligence information that possible terrorists may have been considering the smuggling of toxic chemicals into Cebu," said the officer, who asked not to be identified because he was dealing with sensitive information.

The officer said the NBI did not receive any details regarding how the chemicals would be used.

Raw info

"We are not taking any threats lightly even if the intelligence reports we received regarding the toxic chemicals were raw information," the officer said.

He said the bureau had shared the information with its counterparts in the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

He added that authorities assigned to secure the Summit had been strictly monitoring all transportation facilities going to Cebu to prevent terrorists from smuggling chemicals classified as toxic into the city.

The NBI officer claimed terrorists could have used the recent chemical spill in Makati City and dumping of toxic wastes in an irrigation canal in Bulacan as "dry-runs" for their planned activity.

Links to chemical spills

"We are now looking into the possible connection between the planned terroristic activity and the two chemical spills," said the officer.

The Makati spill occurred in a high school after a cabinet filled with chemicals collapsed.

In the Bulacan incident, a truck driver and his helper supposedly hired by a waste management firm to dispose off toxic wastes are facing investigation for dumping them into the canal.

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Never on a Friday, Trillanes finds out

From page A1

learned this quickly enough when he tried and failed to register to vote in his home district yesterday.

Trillanes, the most prominent leader of the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny, finally confirmed that he would run in next year's elections. But the politico wannabe was not aware that the Commission on Elections only allowed voter registration from Sunday to Thursday, and never on a Friday.

Under heavy guard from Marine soldiers, the 35-year-old leader of the so-called "Magdalo" rebel officers went to the Comelec office in Camarin, Calookan City yesterday at 10 a.m. to register.

He was finally able to convince the Makati court which is trying him and 30 other junior officers for coup d'etat to allow him to renew his voter's registration since he has not been able to vote in the last two elections.

Trillanes needs to be a registered voter to qualify to run for public office, like the Senate, which he is reportedly eyeing.

Non-event

News of his trip to the Comelec to register as a voter became a spectator event and drew the attention of the media.

But the event quickly turned into a non-event, after Trillanes and his escorts were told by the Comelec staff that voter registration was not allowed on Friday.

"It would be a violation of Comelec Resolution 7684," Arlene Ramos told Trillanes, in the absence of the Comelec officer-in-charge.

"Registration of voters is conducted from Sundays to Thursdays only. Fridays and Saturdays are allotted for the release of identification cards and certificates," she explained.

Ramos added that notices on the schedule of registration had been posted and had been widely disseminated by media.

Unfazed

Trillanes arrived before 9 a.m. but "he went up to the Comelec registration area shortly before noon to personally ask if he could partially register," Ramos told reporters.

She said Trillanes requested if he could at least fill up forms and be fingerprinted.

"We could not make an exception because we are duty-bound to follow rules and adhere to our independence at all times," she said.

Trillanes, who was met by his mother at the Comelec office, tried to look unfazed by the setback.

Try again

He said he would ask his Marine custodians at Fort Bonifacio to allow him to register on another date.

The court order allowing him to register at the Comelec did not specify a date, as long as it was done before the deadline on Dec. 31.

Despite his failure to comply with the important prerequisite to register, Trillanes still issued a prepared statement virtually confirming earlier reports that he would run for the Senate in the May 2007 polls.

Vote for me

"I would like to officially announce my participation in next year's elections," he said in a statement.

He said he decided to run "because I simply cannot helplessly watch the incessant rape of our people's dignity and our country's wealth."

The rebel leader said he saw running for public office as a way to pursue the reforms that he and about 300 junior officers and soldiers aired when they took over the Ayala Oakwood Premier hotel in Makati City on July 27, 2003.

"Finally, I believe the elections are the only peaceful avenue left for the Filipinos to effect change in leadership of this country," he went on.

Be vigilant

Trillanes also took the opportunity yesterday to call on the public to resist moves to postpone the elections.

He denounced efforts by administration congressmen to railroad a constituent assembly to pave the way for a parliamentary system.

"I am, therefore, calling on the people to be vigilant in the coming days to ensure that our right to choose our own leaders are not trampled upon," he said.

"There is no problem with the system. The problem is with the people who run the system," added Trillanes, who is also being tried before a general court martial for mutiny and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

House bill bans gov't execs, wives from casinos

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES APproved on third and final reading Tuesday a bill banning government officials and employees—and their wives—from playing at casinos and other gambling dens.

House Bill No. 5565, the substitute bill for HB 1611 authored by Rep. Roseller Barinaga of Zamboanga del Norte, covered all elected and appointed public officials and employees, including officials of government-owned and -controlled corporations.

To foster high ethical standards and morality in the service, the bill titled, "Decency in Public Service Act," bans all public officials and employees from "entering, playing and patronizing casinos" operated by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) and by private entities.

The prohibition also extends to the spouses of public officials and employees since they are viewed as the "alter ego or extension of public servants."

Any public official or spouse found liable for violating provisions of the proposal measure faces a fine not less than P100,000 but not more than P300,000, or imprisonment ranging from six months to six years without probation, or both.

An existing law, Presidential Decree No. 1869, prohibits persons below 21 years old and members of the Philippine National Police and the armed forces from playing at gambling casinos.

Rep. Joel Mayo Almario (Lakas, Davao Oriental), chair of the House Committee on Games and Amusements, said employees of establishments operated by the Pagcor "who knowingly allow an appointed public official or employee to play in the casino or any other similar gambling establishment will also face the same penalties."

Barinaga lauded his colleagues for approving the bill, saying this would help bring back morality and raise ethical standards in government.

"This measure will restore decency and credibility in the government service by erasing doubts on the integrity of concerned public officials and employees," Barinaga said.

The proposed measure authorizes law enforcement agencies to enter casinos and arrest violators caught "en flagrante delicto (in the act)," according to Barinaga.

If the enacted, the bill mandates the Civil Service Commission to institute the appropriate administrative action against public servants found violating the proposed act.

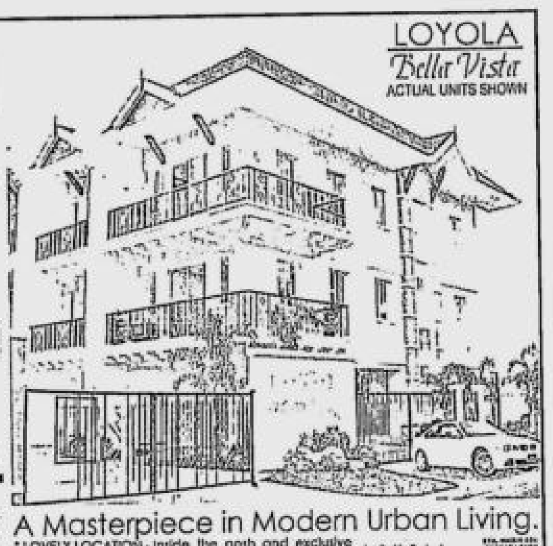
Writers workshop in January

THE NEWLY REvived Baguio Writers Workshop will hold a writing workshop for high school and college students on Jan. 20 and 27 at Grandma's Workshop located at the mezzanine of Porta Vaga on Session Road, Baguio City.

The requirements for applicants are a recommendation from their English, Pilipino or literature teacher, three poems, a short story, an essay, or excerpts from a play. Applicants are encouraged to find sponsors to cover the workshop fee of P700, inclusive of materials and snacks. Only 15 slots are available.

The deadline for submission of applications is Jan. 6, at the Philippine Daily Inquirer reading center, Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle, 10 Happy Glen Loop.

The teaching staff—made up of Francis Macansantos, Jennifer Patricia Cariño, Padma Perez and Babeth Lolarga—will discuss the submitted manuscripts and conduct writing exercises and short lectures on the writing process. For inquiries, text 0916-242-1637.



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Lot # 1 Supply of Security Services for NFA at Kidapawan City and Cotabato Province	NFA Corporate Budget	28	Php 3,829,444.08
Lot # 2 Supply of Security Services for NFA at Tacurong City and Sultan Kudarat Province	NFA Corporate Budget	12	Php 1,641,190.32
Lot # 3 Supply of Security Services for NFA (SPGC) at Tacurong City	NFA Corporate Budget	16	Php 2,188,253.76

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES	DATE / TIME
Last day of Issuance of Registration Requirement	Dec. 15, 2006 (8:30 AM - 4:00 PM)
Deadline of Submission of Registration Requirement	Dec. 20, 2006 (8:30 AM - 4:00 PM)
Last day of Issuance of Certificate of Registration	Dec. 20, 2006 (8:30 AM - 4:00 PM)
Last day Issuance of Eligibility Requirement Forms and Bid/Tender Documents	Dec. 21, 2006 (8:30 AM - 4:00 PM)
Pre Bidding Conference	December 22, 2006 (9:30 AM)
Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Sealed Bid	January 12, 2007 (8:30 AM - 9:30 AM)
Opening of Eligibility Requirement Forms & Sealed Bid	January 12, 2007 (10:00 AM)

The VENUE of all activities stated above will be at the Farmer's Training Center, NFA-SPGC Compound, Tacurong City.

The criteria in determining the eligibility of the Security Service Contractor is the pass/fail method as stated in the IRR of Republic Act No. 9184 subject to post evaluation. The Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid Method will be used in the evaluation of bid.

Applicant Security Service Contractor may register with the Regional Bid and Awards Committee (RBAC) Secretariat upon submission of a letter of intent and securing Application for Registration Form upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00.

Eligibility Requirement Forms and Bid / Tender Documents shall be issued only to Applicant Security Service Contractors with issued NFA Certificate of Official Registration and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 7,000.00 per project/lot.

Applicant Security Service Contractors have the option to bid any or all of the above mentioned project/contract.

The RBAC Secretariat can be contacted at Tel. Nos. (064) 200-3803, 384-1247, 477-0064 and Fax No. (064) 200-3807. Contact persons are Ms. Ma. Cristina O. Pleña / Mr. Leonardo R. Robles, Jr.

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids thereof, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such bids which in its judgment are most reasonable and advantageous to the NFA and/or to the government.

(Sgd.) ERNESTO M. MACASINAG
Regional Manager II

(PDI - December 2 & 9 2006)

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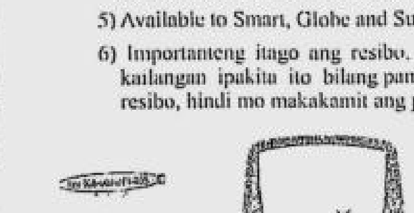

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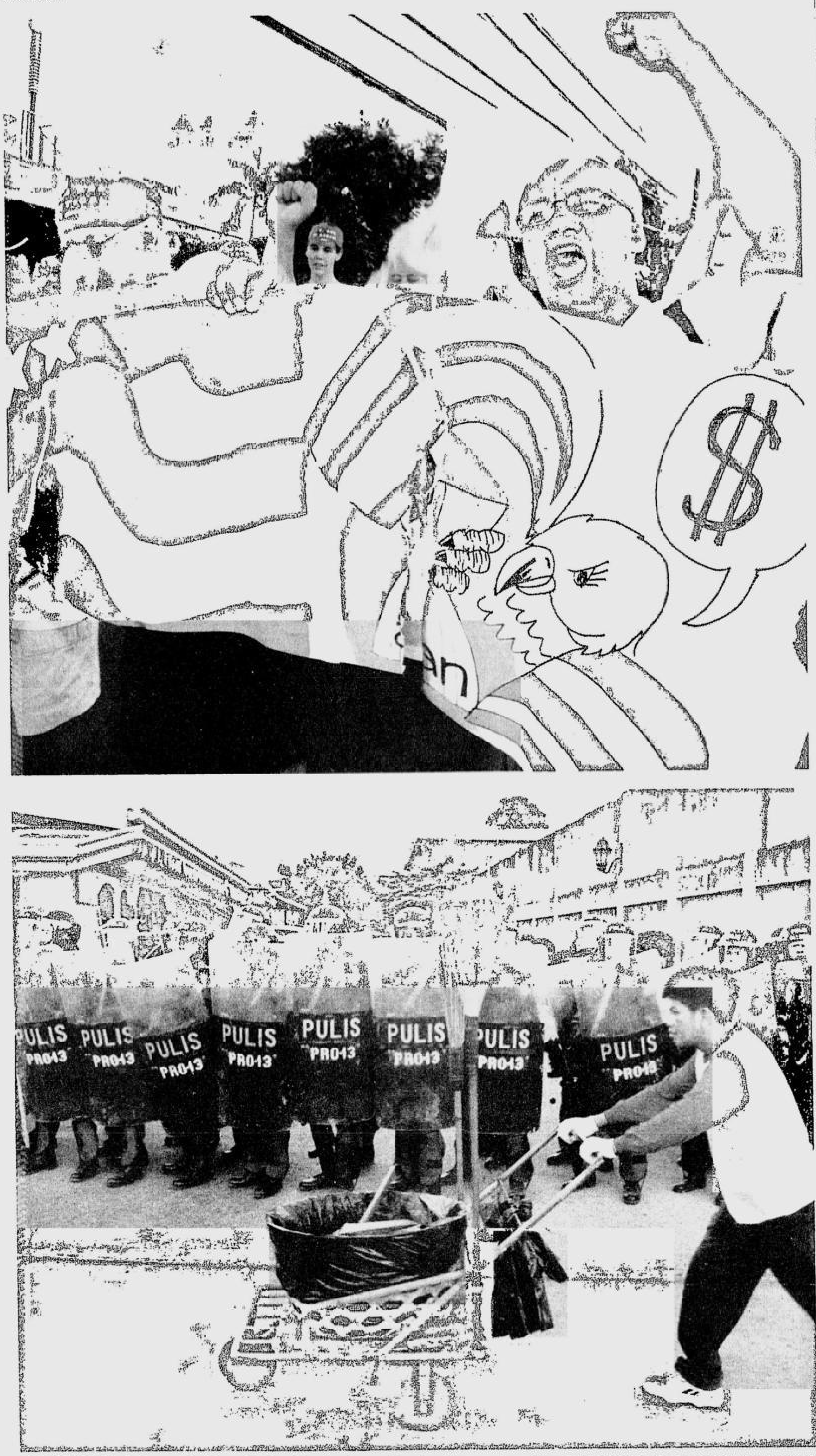


RIOT POLICE block the road leading to the hotel housing Asean delegates after warnings of terror attacks were raised by several countries as foreign and domestic protesters burn the Asean logo (top photo).

AFP

Storm won't hit Mactan directly, says Pagasa

From page A1

Still hovering over the Philippine Sea 350 kms east southeast of Guiuan, Samar, Seniang (international name: Utor) is expected to intensify into a typhoon when it passes over Cebu on Sunday.

It is expected to bring rains over the Visayas and parts of Luzon due to the enhanced northeast monsoon winds.

Seniang, the 19th weather disturbance to enter the Philippines this year, was packing winds of 95 kph near the center, with gustiness of 120 kph.

Only Signal No. 1 over Cebu

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, it was moving west northwest at 24 kph toward the vicinity of Bantayan Island, about 60 kms from Cebu City.

Only Signal No. 1 was raised over Cebu and neighboring provinces in the Visayas, where Seniang is headed, based on its current track.

Seniang is expected to make landfall in Samar today before moving to Tacloban and then to Coron, Palawan by tomorrow afternoon. Then it should be out of the country Monday night.

"If somebody would ask us for advice, based on all data available so far, it is very likely that Seniang is going to hit Bantayan Island in northern Cebu but would not directly hit Cebu City," Pagasa officer in charge Prisco Nilo said.

Other factors

Nilo said he told Pagasa's forecaster in Cebu to relay the latest weather update—that Seniang would not directly hit Cebu City or Mactan—to the Asean organizers, who were asking for an update around 3 p.m. yesterday, or about two hours before the postponment decision was announced.

Yumul said there might have been other factors that led to the postponement.

"The weather aspect is just one aspect factored in. There are some things to which Pagasa and DOST are not privy but which may be critical and could be the reason for the postponement," Yumul said.

He did not elaborate on possible other factors.

"Did the national government overreact? I don't think so. I think the national government is responsible enough to come up with a decision that would be beneficial to all concerned," Yumul said.

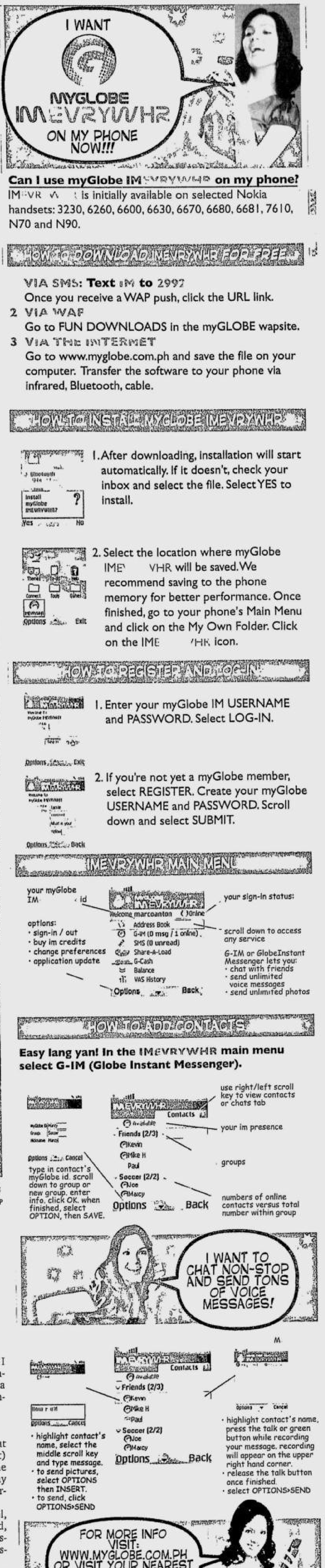
Basis for postponement

"What we would like to believe was what they used as basis (for the postponement) was Pagasa's forecast since last night," he said. Pagasa issues three bulletins every day during times of severe weather disturbances.

Signal No. 1 has been raised over Bohol, Cebu, Negros provinces, Guimaras Island, Iloilo, Capiz, Antique, Aklan, Siquijor Island, Surigao del Norte and Camiguin Island.

Signal No. 2 has been raised over Samar and Leyte provinces, Biliran Island, Dinagat Island and Siargao.

Officials said Seniang may cause the cancellation of flights due to poor visibility but its strength as of yesterday was not comparable to those of Supertyphoons "Milenyo" or "Reming."



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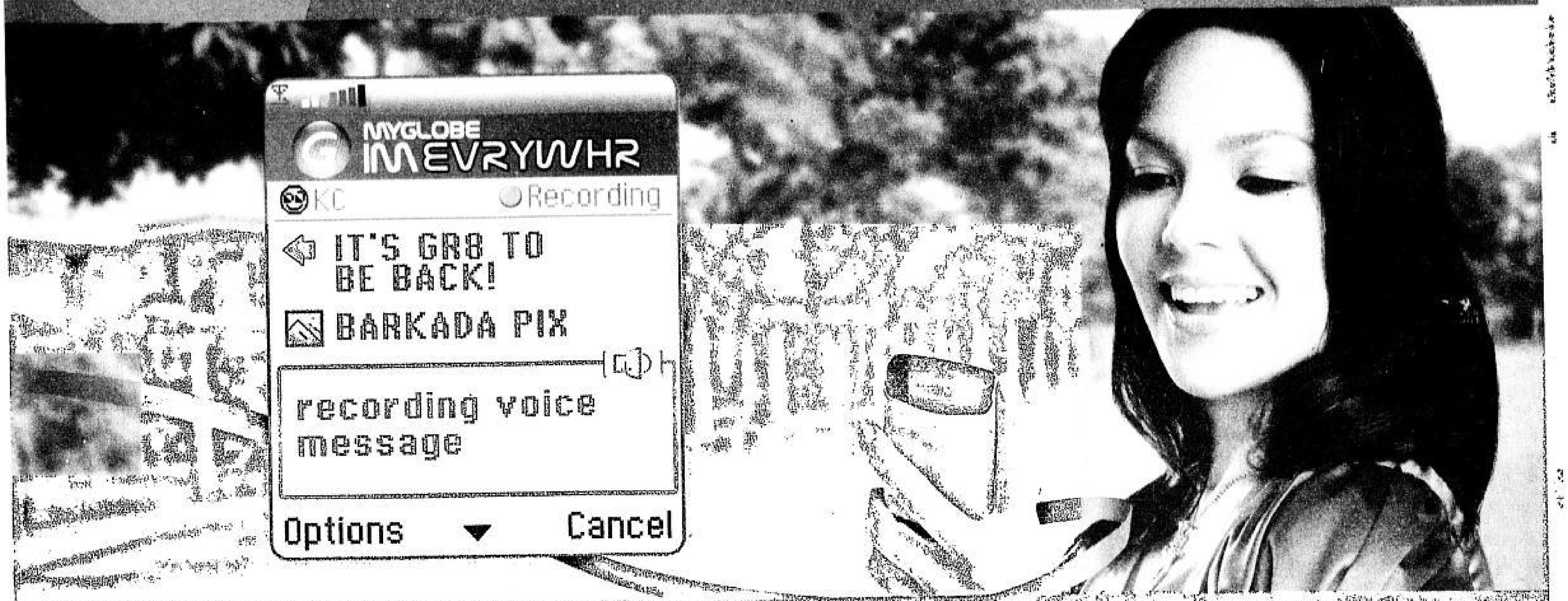
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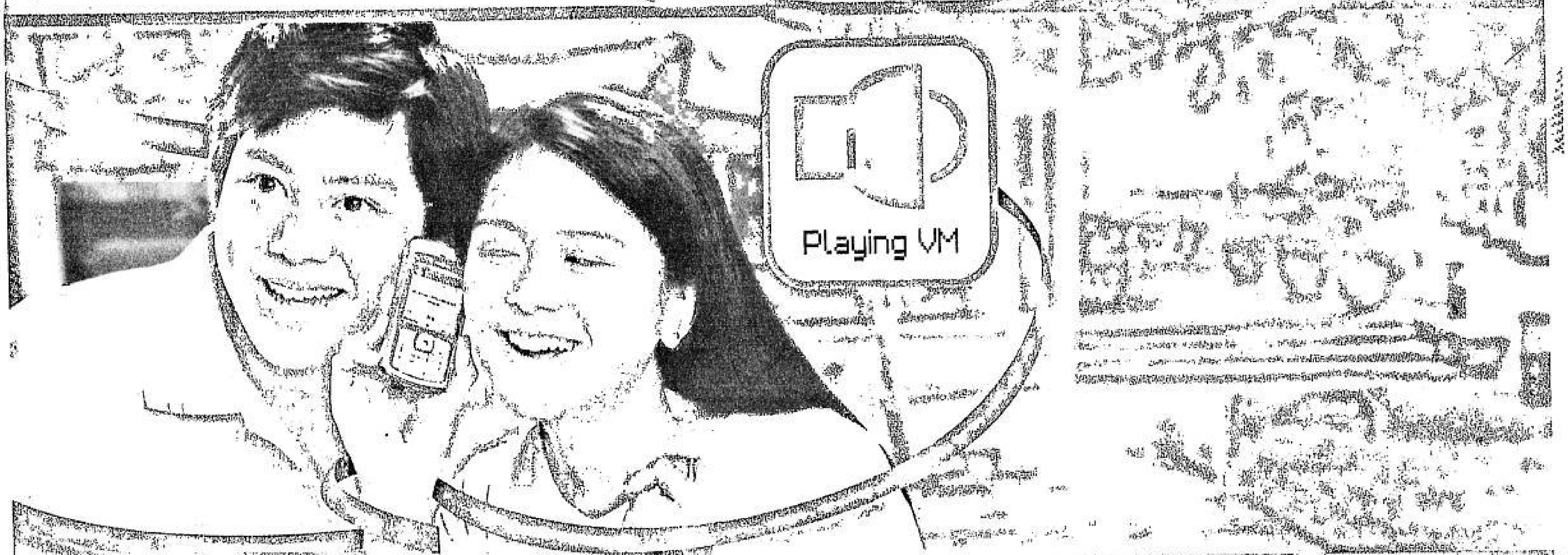

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Vol. 22 No. 1

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OPINION

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We worked with heroes

FILIPINO DIPLOMAT, POLITICIAN, SOLDIER, JOURnalist and author Carlos P. Romulo summed up his life in the title of his Pulitzer Prize-winning autobiography: "I Walked with Heroes." Everyone in the Philippine Daily Inquirer can proudly make a similar claim. But to put it more precisely and quite literally, each one of us can say, "I worked with heroes."

EDITORIAL

That isn't just an empty boast or a cheap stab at self-glorification. It is not as if we invented an excuse to puff up our egos. It was Time Magazine that opened the opportunity for us to at least bask in reflected glory as we celebrate our 21st anniversary.

In its Asian edition published last Nov. 13, Time paid tribute "to the remarkable men and women" who have shaped Asia for the past 60 years, and dubbed them "Asian heroes." The prestigious international news weekly, treated the honorees to a testimonial, exactly seven days ago today. Still fresh and warm, the tribute adds more sheen and glamour and gives a special flavor to this year's celebration of the INQUIRER's anniversary, as two of the four Filipinos who were so honored are members of the INQUIRER family: our founding chair Eugenia D. Apostol and our editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc. (The other two are former President Corazon Aquino and international billiards champion Efren "Bata" Reyes.)

"The Philippine press was terrified of covering a dictator's regime—until the duo came along," Time recalled. "In late 1985 ... [Apostol and Jimenez] launched the Philippine Daily Inquirer, trailblazing a brand of hard-hitting, mischievous, in-your-face reporting that tested the limits of a dictator's tolerance and helped Filipinos win their freedom."

In the context of the present, Time had this to say about the imprint they made on Philippine journalism: "A spate of lawsuits, including libel cases filed against 43 journalists by the husband of embattled President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, is casting a chill on the media. [But] Filipino reporters remain defiant, inspired by the example of Eugenia Apostol and Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc—two women who set the template for courageous journalism for a nation still very much in need of it."

Apostol has long retired as chair of the INQUIRER. But she continues to keep us company through her occasional visits and commentaries on the Philippine education system, which she and her associates in the Foundation for Worldwide People Power hope to raise to heights of excellence through what they call their "Education Revolution"—another of her seemingly impossible, lofty undertakings silently taking shape in the countrysides. Magsanoc continues to be at the helm of the editorial staff, ever the fiercely independent journalist that she has always been.

There is no question that both of them contributed the most in shaping the character of the INQUIRER. They have been a guiding light. And they will be a source of strength, courage and inspiration for everyone in this paper.

"Today, the INQUIRER is the country's largest newspaper and, while sometimes criticized for sensationalism, it has been unflinching in its coverage of government and the Philippines' uneasy transition to democracy." Again those are not our words, but Time's. But then "Balanced news, fearless views" is more than just a motto for those who work in the INQUIRER. It is our guiding philosophy and, nothing pleases us more than to hear our readers say we are living up to it. Our position as the country's most influential and most widely circulated broadsheet attests to this.

"Dare to ask" is not just an exhortation but a challenge. We ask questions not to satisfy our own curiosity but so that our readers will be better informed.

This is one reason that at 21, we remain No. 1.

Born to inform

THE EDITOR IN CHIEF AND TWO JOURNALISTS AT THE Berlingske Tidende (newspaper) faced demands that they be jailed for doing their jobs. The Danish prosecution believes, in earnest, that they should serve four months in jail for smearing the reputation of the intelligence service.

Their argument is over a former intelligence officer giving them information about the service's threat assessments. But the leak did no harm to national security or endanger Danish troops abroad.

FOREIGN COMMENT

And no one can deny that the debate over about Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction—or the lack of these arms—was of major public interest.

Berlingske Tidende's journalists and editors have committed no sin. On the contrary, they did exactly what the press was born to do: make relevant information available to the public.

Politiken (Copenhagen, Denmark)

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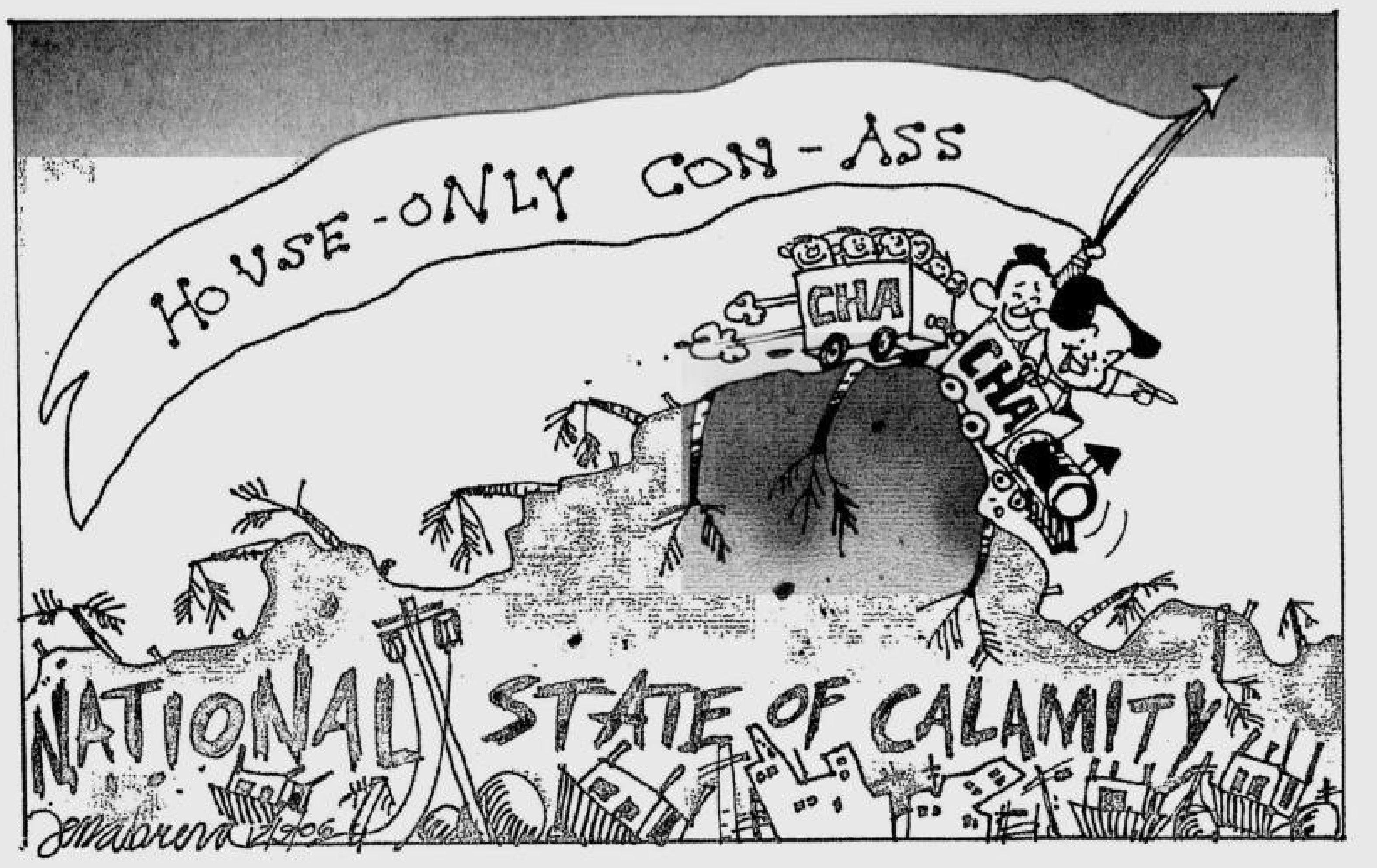

'Amidst the strife of storms'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

ON MARCH 16, 1967, CONGRESS PASSED Resolution of Both Houses No. 3 proposing that Art. VI, Sec. 16 of the Commonwealth Constitution be amended to authorize the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives to become additional delegates to the constitutional convention called by RBH No. 2 to be composed of two elective delegates from each representative district.

The people reacted to the proposal with widespread hostility as another unbelievable but habitually shameful demonstration of the legislators' lack of sensitivity to the popular will and plain ordinary decency. They denounced it as an arrogant device of the legislators to take advantage of their official positions to advance their private interests against the public welfare they were sworn to uphold. It was a barefaced rejection of the trite but valid truism that a public office is a public trust to be honored rather than defiled.

The plotters must have confidently expected the masses to support them as they had often done in the past because of their accustomed obedience to their political masters as cultivated with material rewards and the coercion of guns and goons. As usual, the monetary inducements that generously flowed from the pork barrel, coupled with the other standard balloting irregularities in this country, characterized the election and plebiscite that were scheduled on the same date.

The simultaneous holding of the two polls was among the issues raised in the leading case of Gonzales v. Commission on Elections, 21 SCRA 774, but it was decided affirmatively because the seven dissenting justices lacked one solitary vote to declare the schedule unconstitutional. Happily, however, the plebiscite roundly rejected the proposal to include the members of Congress in the constitutional convention that was to revise the Commonwealth Charter in 1971.

That body undertook its much-debated task, with the few upright members vigilantly resisting the compulsions of the administration to establish a parliamentary system where President Marcos, who could no longer run for another term, might still continue as head of the new government. It was sullied by the payola scandal exposed by Delegate Eduardo Quintero who charged that many of his colleagues had been bribed with millions of pesos to manipulate the controversial change.

That scheme failed but the final version of the revision was trashed with Marcos' imposition of martial law and the 1973 Constitution that sustained his dictatorship for more than 13 years. That regime was glorified by the thousands of valiant citizens, led by the martyred Ninoy, who protested the loss of their liberties, many at the cost of their lives. It remains a mockery of Edsa that the tyrants big and small who caused the holocaust are still in power today, and unpunished, to boot, if not even also exalted.

These sordid events are recalled today because another political conspiracy is being hatched under the leadership of President Macapagal-Arroyo and her now docile assistant, Speaker Jose de Venecia. The two were running mates in the election of 1998 but the voters rejected Joe as president and elected Gloria as vice president. Now their roles are reversed but their ambitions are as gluttonous as ever. The replacement of the presidential system is the only way they can remain in power, and they are determined to move heaven and earth to achieve this goal by fair means or foul.

Mostly foul. As deviously planned, the House of Representatives will, by itself alone, convert itself into a constituent assembly that will extend the terms of its incumbent members by scrapping the required May elections in 2007, repeal the present constitutional term limits, abolish the Senate, and establish the regular unicameral Parliament to be elected in November next year. These proposals will require the people's ratification in a separate plebiscite to cost roughly P4 billion according to Comelec figures. If approved like the illegally ratified Parity Amendment in 1947, the election planned in November will entail another equal amount, raising the total expenses to be wasted by this scandalous chicanery to no less than P8 billion of the people's money.

The purpose of all this cabal is to gratify the avarice of ruthless politicians for whom the public welfare is only rhetorically revered but secretly despised as an obstacle to their cupidity. It is an atrocious conspiracy that must be rejected by the electorate as in the plebiscite of 1967 or, better still, stamped out now by the Supreme Court as the conscience of the sovereign people.

The travail of martial law could have been avoided outright in 1972 if the Supreme Court then had the courage to resist the tyranny of Marcos. The justices quavered and the nation suffered. Our Supreme Court today can prevent a similar outrage to the Constitution by making it stand against those who would traduce it and keep it "firm and immovable, like a mountain amidst the strife of storms or a rock in the ocean amidst the raging of the waves."

But will the political Milenyo contrived by Malacañang and the lower House finally control, and with the possible complicity of the Supreme Court? Heaven help the Philippines.

She asked for it?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

SOMETIME DURING RAMADAN, AUSTRALIA'S senior Muslim cleric delivered a sermon in Arabic to 500 Sydney worshippers. An English translation of portions of the remarks of Sheik Taj Aldin Alhilali found its way to the media (The Australian). There are women, he said, who "sway suggestively" and wear makeup and immodest dress. They are raped "and then you get a judge without mercy and gives you 65 years. But the problem, but the problem all began with who (*sic*)?"

The cleric went on: "If you take out uncovered meat and place it outside on the street, or in the garden or in the park, or in the backyard without a cover, and the cats come and eat it ... whose fault is it—the cats or the uncovered meat? ... The uncovered meat is the problem... If she was in her room, in her home, in her hijab (Islamic head scarf which covers the hair neck and shoulders), no problem would have occurred."

Those remarks caused a furor in Australia, with protests coming from political, religious and community leaders of all faiths (including Muslim leaders, who called for his resignation). Even Prime Minister John Howard was moved to remark that the comments were "appalling and reprehensible." Although Howard refused to say whether the sheik should resign ("It is not for me to say what position he should hold in the Islamic faith"), he declared: "I totally reject the notion that the way in which women dress and deport themselves can in any way be used as a semblance of justification for rape."

Sheikh Alhilali, while claiming that his remarks were taken out of context, nevertheless issued a statement saying, "I unreservedly apologize to any woman who is offended by my comments ....I had only intended to protect women's honor." He also unequivocally condemned rape and reiterated that it was a capital crime.

Compare the remarks of the Muslim cleric with those of Archbishop Oscar Cruz of Lingayen-Dagupan, as he commented on the so-called Subic rape case: "Womanhood is precious and noble, so it is not right for them to be flaunting it around... They should not make themselves appear cheap and practically inviting to be violated by men." The good archbishop also condemned exploitation of women (and children) as "one of the worst crimes of humanity."

While the similarity between the comments of the Muslim and Catholic clerics is marked—representing, as it were, one of the oldest forms of victim-blaming and violence excusing, also known as the "she-asked-for-it" theory of rape—there is at the same time a marked difference in the reaction of the Australian and the Filipino public to such comments: outrage by the former, implicit agreement by the latter.

This is not to say that in the more developed countries, the she-asked-for-it theory is not held. A British survey, for example, showed that more than a quarter (26 percent) of those asked said that they thought a woman was partially or totally responsible for being raped if she was wearing sexy or revealing clothing. An Australian national survey in 2001 of 5,000 young people aged 12-20 showed that 14 percent of young males agreed with the statement, "It's okay for a boy to make a girl have sex with him if she has flirted with him or led him on." I couldn't put my hands on any similar survey conducted in the Philippines, but given that no umbrage was taken at Archbishop Cruz's words, it would seem that the belief that the women are to blame if they are raped seems to be widespread among Filipinos (unless what I consider implicit agreement was actually indifference).

Is there any rational basis for victim-blaming? I came across an item in the Internet (I downloaded it, but missed out on the author's name) which makes the issue crystal clear: blaming the woman for the rape is like concluding "that having a responsibility to avoid becoming the victim of a crime means that we are, therefore, responsible for the crime itself. That just isn't true. We are responsible for our own actions and are thus responsible for acting rationally and intelligently; we are not responsible for how others act, though....

"Consider a situation where a person acts in an obviously and unambiguously negligent, irresponsible, and stupid manner: a man is driving his daughter to day care and, along the way, stops at a convenience store for coffee. In doing so, he figures that he won't be long so he leaves the engine running and the doors unlocked, but his daughter in her car seat in the back.

"You can see what's coming, right? Someone comes along and steals the car, with the daughter still inside. An awful crime, no question about it, but do we hold the father responsible in any way that exonerates the thief? Of course not. We'll have all kinds of harsh statements to make about the father because, after all, what he did was really stupid. The penalty for the car thief will not and should not be any less because of that stupidity, however. The theft is the action of the thief and the father is not responsible for the theft; the father is responsible for his own actions, which were negligent, because they made theft more likely in a way that he should have foreseen....

"Murders and thieves aren't allowed to get away with their crimes if the victim did something which made the crime easier or more attractive. Why are rapists and rape treated this way?"

One guess: They blamed it on Eve, too. Senseless.

Joint or separate voting—sans emotion

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

RUMOR CIRCULATED YESTERDAY THAT THE Asean Summit might be moved to Manila if a typhoon heading for the Visayas early next week gathers strength. I called up Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita about it and he said things were not definite yet. But he quipped that considering all the preparations already in place in Cebu, Congress might consider passing a resolution seeking to divert the typhoon. "I don't care if they pass it voting separately or jointly," Ermita said with a laugh.

* * *

Seriously speaking, this issue of joint or separate voting is at the core of the controversy surrounding the "invitation" extended by the House of Representatives to members of Congress to an assembly on Tuesday, Dec. 12. The House leaders expressed hope that the senators, who have been invited, would come and participate in the deliberations on proposed amendments, even as they stressed that they would convene with or without the senators. On the other hand, the Senate leadership said the senators won't attend because they deem the House action illegal, and if some senators do attend the assembly, they would be doing so in their personal capacity.

* * *

As I have stated here, the senators and representatives are coming from different directions. Pro Cha-cha House members have staked their all because they believe that constitutional reforms must be done now or never. Speaker Jose de Venecia and his allies hold that after the May 2007 elections the newly elected senators would side with the remaining anti Cha-cha senators, and won't to Charter change. On the other hand, House leaders say that a new president in 2010, having spent many billions to get elected, would never agree to give up his post or to be reduced to a figurehead.

* * *

Through the many months that Sigaw/ULAP leaders pushed the signature campaign and House members the idea of a constituent assembly, the Cha-cha debate escalated, but the senators hardly indicated how they felt about it. A few months ago, they held a hearing on constitutional reforms and then passed a resolution expressing **the "sense of the Senate" that the House cannot have that assembly without them. But nothing about what they found objectionable or acceptable about Cha-cha. Efforts by House members to reach out were largely ignored.**

* * *

It became clear that the Senate, faced with the threat of extinction, had circled the wagons for survival. Some senators, like Aquilino Pimentel Jr., made it known they were for Cha-cha, but without GMA—remove her and Cha-cha would fly. Others clearly had presidential ambitions. Some made noises about supporting a constitutional convention, which they knew could not take off in the next 10 or 15 years. The senators decided to hold Cha-cha hostage. If House members are being pilloried as "greedy for power," the senators ought to be hit, too, for self-interest and opportunism.

* * *

With the House's audacious move to hold an assembly with or without the senators this Tuesday, various forces have vowed to stop the Cha-cha train. These include various religious groups, led by the reactionary Catholic Church. Yesterday, former Sen. John Osmeña filed for a TRO in the Supreme Court. Perhaps that TRO move may be fortuitous, as it could force the early resolution of the final battle between the pros and the antis on the issue of whether 195 members of the House, constituting three-fourths of the entire Congress and without the senators, can amend the Constitution or not.

* * *

Some fast-breaking political developments could affect this controversy, but it's crucial to point out that House members have made valid political capital of Sec. 1, Article XVII, titled "Amendments or Revisions," which reads: "Any amendment to, or revision of, this Constitution may be proposed by (1) The Congress, upon a vote of three-fourths of all its Members…" The House argues that this provision does not specify voting separately, but only that a three-fourths vote is needed; and they are confident they have that number. But the senators insist that Congress is a bicameral body, so that the two chambers have to vote separately, requiring a three-fourths vote in each chamber to pass an amendment. If in passing bills this separate process is observed, how much more in amending the basic Charter? they argue.

Obviously House members know that in separate voting, the Senate won't deliver the needed number for amendment, thus their insistence on voting jointly, where the total sum could spell victory. But its stand is also based on the fact that the Constitution is very specific about when separate voting is demanded, and hence, the fact that the Charter only asks for three-fourths vote of all its members to amend it means that's all it wants or is needed.

* * *

Lawyers like University of the East College of Law dean Amado Valdez point out that ironically, this most crucial provision is the vaguest of all the provisions on legislative voting. I checked this out and, indeed, I noted at least four instances when separate voting is clearly specified: (1) in Congress' exercise of its sole power to declare a state of war; (2) when it has to choose between two presidential candidates getting equal number of votes; (3) in confirming the president's nomination of a new vice president from the ranks of Congress; and (4) in determining the president's inability to discharge his powers and duties. On the other hand, it's very specific about joint voting in one instance: revoking a presidential proclamation of martial law or a suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, or extending them.

The question is, why was the provision to amend the Constitution through a constituent assembly left so vague, when being specific would have avoided a lot of confusion? That imperfection is yet another reason for Cha-cha.

Derailing the Con-ass train

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"*MAGPUYAT AT MANALANGIN* (STAY UP AND Pray)" was Christ's admonition to his disciples, said Bishop Eliezar Pascua of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines at a forum on "Con-ass" the other day.

But he also said he wasn't sure just how many of the congresspersons staying up till the wee hours last Tuesday and Wednesday were really praying. Indeed, he wasn't even sure how many were actually staying up, since many representatives were already lolling their heads in exhaustion, their eyes closed but stubbornly remaining in the hall.

Actually, the many viewers staying up to catch the proceedings on TV weren't praying, either. "I'm sorry," I told the bishop during a break. "I stayed up, but I was cursing all the while. I forgot to pray."

By now, we all know what all this furor was all about: a live demonstration of what has been described as "legislative legerdemain," a magic trick that made it possible for the House of Representatives—using sheer number to change the rules and re-define the terms—to constitute itself as a constitutional assembly without need of the consent or participation of the Senate.

Critics of this short-cut to Charter change have been less than polite in their language. "*Garapalan*" is the word commonly used to describe the actions of the majority, a term that House Speaker Jose de Venecia, widely suspected as the coach behind this maneuver, reportedly resents. But "*garapalan*," commonly translated as "brazen" but incorporating as well shades of desperation, abuse, shamelessness, brute force and crudeness, is exactly the word to describe the strong-arm tactics employed during those two long nights.

"We have now seen an example of what the GMA/JDV parliamentary dictatorship will be like," remarked Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teddy Casiño, during a roundtable discussion Thursday with the topic: "Con-Ass—Is it for the Common Good?"

* * *

IN ALL the years since the Cha-cha train had, so to speak, left the station, proponents were one in their assurances that they would let the locomotive proceed only with popular support. This is why, in a move to forestall any more criticism, the Con-ass maneuver was temporarily shelved to let the people's initiative proceed.

But after PI was swatted down by the Supreme Court and with the Senate standing firm on its position not to participate in a Con-ass, the House leadership apparently felt it was time to pull out all stops, fire up their engines and ram through all barriers. Though it is strange why they chose to launch their express in the dead of night, catching most everyone by surprise, as if their train had a load of contraband, which it most certainly has.

Still, as the saying goes, haste makes waste. And a runaway train with a passenger load of euphoric legislators cheering the way they swept through all barriers, including the rule of law and common sense, faces a strong prospect of derailing.

* * *

"*GRABE ang pakiramdam ko* (I couldn't explain how I was feeling)," confessed Soc Banzuela, coordinator of C4CC or Citizens for Charter Change, of his sentiments while he sat in the gallery watching administration legislators run roughshod over the opposition.

The representatives of "first-time voters" who were with them in the gallery, Banzuela noted, were even wondering among themselves if they still wanted to be part of such a system.

"I am less hopeful about the future," averred Atom Araullo, representing the League of Filipino Students at the forum. He sounded a warning about the onerous amendments that Charter change proponents had lined up, including discarding the nationalist provisions that the framers of the 1987 Constitution had inserted to protect the national patrimony.

Indeed, if there is a silver lining to this week's events, it's that the shameful scenes at the Batasan seem to have galvanized influential sectors who previously had kept quiet or had only muted reactions to all these political maneuverings.

A grand ecumenical prayer rally at the Luneta is scheduled on Dec. 15, led by El Shaddai's Bro. Mike Velarde, JIL's Bro. Eddie Villanueva, the mainline Protestant denominations, as well as Manila Archbishop Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales. Protest actions have been scheduled as well in Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo and Davao, according to Fr. Joe Dizon of Solidarity Philippines, an organizer of the forum together with the Philippine Misereor Partnership.

Has the so-called "tipping point" of popular anger been reached? Well, if it hasn't yet, then we are very close to it!

* * *

I HAPPENED to be reading "UG: An Underground Tale," a biography of Edgar Jopson, better known as "Edjop," written by journalist Benjie Pimentel, even while the Con-ass train was being rammed through.

Described as the most fascinating and tragic figure of the First Quarter Storm generation, Jopson burst into prominence as president of the National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) and was at first derided as a "reformist" and a "moderate" at a time when revolution was already the rallying call of the youth.

But after martial law, Jopson went underground and became a top cadre of the Communist Party of the Philippines. When asked what led to this turnaround, Jopson said he simply lost faith in reforming the system as the way to bring about genuine change in the country. The 1971 Constitutional Convention, and the way the Marcos regime and traditional politicians manipulated the proceedings were the first blow, he said.

Watching the ANC coverage, and listening to the speakers at the forum, I wondered: How many more Edjops have been born this week? How many well-meaning youths have lost their faith in so-called "democracy" and have been radicalized as a result of the Con-ass debacle? And who will pay the price?

Calderon's cauldron

WORLD VIEW

Jorge G. Castañeda

UNDER DRAMATICALLY INAUSPICIOUS CIRcumstances, Mexico has finally got itself a new president. Felipe Calderón has taken the oath of office, braving the wrath of his Left-wing opposition, outsmarting the Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD) and its leader, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, but nonetheless paying a high price. Every TV news show and front-page headline in the world ran the same headline: "New Mexican president inaugurated in chaos and fisticuffs."

Mexico's institutions withstood—just barely—the onslaught of a virtually insurrectional Left-wing opposition, bent on stopping Calderón's inauguration, and of a resentful Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), increasingly dedicated to allowing Calderón to take office, and then fail miserably. Yet the struggle to govern and transform Mexico has just begun.

Most Mexican commentators believe that it should be relatively easy for Calderón to improve on the largely self-inflicted failure of Vicente Fox. Mexico needs to grow at roughly twice the rate that it did under Fox (a meager 2 percent per year). If Calderón can strengthen law and order, and use his considerable political skills to reach agreement with the PRI on structural economic reforms, he will succeed.

But this view is simplistic. Fox's term, along with the four last years of former President Ernesto Zedillo's mandate, were hardly a failure. Not since the 1960s had Mexico undergone 10 consecutive years of economic stability, low inflation, low interest rates, a stable currency, and constant, though mediocre, growth. For the first time ever, mortgages, automobile loans, and consumer credit became available to the lower middle class.

Likewise, while Fox can be criticized for not clamping down on protesters and a disruptive, extremist opposition, he never resorted to the bloody repression for which most of his predecessors came to be known. Moreover, he dragged Mexico out of its archaic foreign policy cocoon, and placed immigration and human rights at the heart of Mexico's new international agenda.

Nor is Calderón finding it easy to negotiate with the PRI, failing to build a coalition government, which he has repeatedly proclaimed as the solution to the gridlock that has cursed Mexico since 1997. Whatever the advantages of a cabinet comprising solely members of his Partido Acción Nacional, this is not what Calderón sought.

Mexico's economic problems might be more intractable than many commentators seem to believe. Mexico experienced a "cold-turkey" economic opening under former President Carlos Salinas in 1988-1994; a belated but successful political opening under Zedillo in 1994-2000; and, at long last, a true rotation in power, thanks to Fox. But the foundations of the old PRI-corporativist system created in the 1930s remain untouched, and represent the main and most formidable obstacles to Mexico's growth and success.

The first pillar of this system is the public and private economic monopolies that dominate the country. The state-owned oil (Pemex) and electric power (Federal Electricity Commission) companies face no competition. The private virtual monopolies in telecommunications (Telmex), television (Televisa), cement (Cemex), bread and tortilla manufacturing (Bimbo and Maseca, respectively), banking (Banamex/Citigroup and Bancomer/Banco de Bilbao) may face competition abroad, but not at home. These monopolies are stronger than ever, and prices, supply, service and quality all suffer.

The second pillar is formed by the unions that have controlled the Mexican labor movement since the 1930s. They enjoy "closed shop" hiring and firing prerogatives, leadership elections by acclamation, mandatory dues without transparency, and immense political power. The teachers' union is the largest in Latin America, the oil workers' union is the richest in Latin America, and the social security employees' union has thwarted any attempt at pension or health reform for years.

The third pillar of the system is political monopoly. For 70 years, the PRI had a complete lock on Mexican politics; now three parties do, and no one else can enter the political arena or gain access to the enormous public subsidies—more than $500 million last year—handed out to these parties without their consent. The main parties write their own anti-trust legislation, vote their own subsidies and choose their own elected officials. The absence of consecutive re-election at any level reinforces the party machines' power: they pick candidates, whom voters merely ratify at the polls.

So Mexico's challenges boil down to liberating the labor movement, breaking up the private monopolies and opening the public monopolies to competition, and lowering entry barriers that restrict access to the political arena. These may not be sufficient conditions for success, but they are certainly necessary ones.

Calderón must strengthen his presidency from the outset. Taking on the powers that be is perhaps the only way to achieve this, however risky it might appear. Elected with only 35 percent of the vote, lacking a majority in Congress, and taking office on the eve of an economic slowdown in the United States, things would be difficult anyway. Given that roughly a third of the electorate does not think he won fairly, and in view of the precariousness of the rule of law in the country, Calderón's position is even less enviable. Caution and patience might not be his best advisors.

Project Syndicate

Jorge G. Castañeda, Mexico's former foreign minister (2000-2003), is professor of Politics and Latin American Studies at New York University.

Hearts and home

YOUNG BLOOD

Karla M. Pundaodaya

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

MY FRIEND AND I MET OVER TEA BEFORE SHE LEFT THE country again. The gist of our conversation was that she was making it big in Singapore and she expected me to follow her there very soon.

That got me thinking about the following as I was taking a shower the next day:

One, it takes a heartbreak to leave the Philippines. Our country many not be the most progressive in Asia, but there is no question that it's the place with the most heart. And this is because of its people.

But when yours is broken, you find it easier to leave. You can free yourself of your attachments in the country because the primary reason you have stayed in the first place—the nation's "heart" essentially found in every Filipino—has ceased to exist for you. It stopped existing the moment it hurt you, exhausted you, deceived you or let you down. After which, you simply give up on it, them, her, him, or the country as a whole, and realize that it isn't much of a place after all. For wasn't the traffic and the heat made only bearable when someone special was there with you inside that sweltering FX taxi? Weren't hellish days in that modestly compensated job forgotten when you came home to a contented family? Weren't all the daily sacrifices worthwhile when you trusted a group of people to at least make everyday life a little better?

When a directionless partner, an adulterous husband, a rebellious child, an ungrateful boss, or a deceptive President brings you great disappointment after all your devotion and loyalty, you snap. Then it won't be long before staying in the country becomes unbearable.

And so, you leave.

Two, it takes a big heart to actually leave the Philippines.

While I said that your heart needs to be broken before you can decide to leave the country, I did not say how big the Filipino's heart is, so that even when it is broken, it continues to throb.

The "Fear Factor" and "Survivor" joke is an all too familiar one. It has been said that if Filipinos were to join American reality shows such "Fear Factor" or "Survivor," they would surely win. If you are a Filipino, you are a survivor even when the cameras are not rolling. All of us know Filipinos who manage to survive outside the Philippines: a mother who works in a hospital in the East Coast and lives in a cousin's tiny apartment in New Jersey; an aunt who tends mansions in California and sleeps on a family friend's couch; an uncle who does construction work in London, while building his own dream house in Bulacan; a fresh graduate who makes computerized floor plans in Singapore while making her own meaningful plans for the family back home. Such survival instincts and guts are innate in the Filipino.

And so, you too will survive.

Three, it takes a dead heart to forget the Philippines.

While the Filipino has a huge heart, it can also be killed. And when it is dead, it ceases to feel, of course. A dead heart completely erases all its links with the Philippines and does not allow sympathy or memories to lead it back home.

But while a heart still beats, it will continually remember the Motherland. Because even tourists who have visited our country never forget the experience.

When a Filipino living outside the country tells you that someone is going back to the homeland, you can't help but feel nostalgic. Thought of a homecoming brings back the sights, sounds and smells of pleasant times in the Philippines. Like a mother, no matter how much you think she has screwed you and embarrassed you, or sent you away, the motherland will always be home.

Karla M. Pundaodaya, 22, is a graduate of the University of Santo Tomas College of Architecture.

Behold the new Blood

CELEBRATE THE CONTINUING EVOLUTION OF A GENERAtion as INQUIRER Books and Anvil Publishing launch the third volume in the best-selling Youngblood series. Edited by Jorge V. Aruta and Ruel S. De Vera, "Youngblood3" gathers 53 selected pieces appearing in this space from 1999 to 2004. The book will be launched at 4 p.m. today at PowerBooks Live! In Greenbelt 4, Makati City. The following contributors are invited to attend and receive their copies of the book:

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Brawn and beauty awarded but best brains disregarded

THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF Ronato Alcano in winning the world pool championship is most laudable. Awarding him the Order of Lakandula or Champion for Life is likewise commendable. The same can be said of the accomplishments of the other awardees: Manny Pacquiao, Efren "Bata" Reyes and Precious Quigaman. Giving them those awards shows that our government values the competitiveness of Filipinos in world events.

But are we not sending a wrong signal to our younger generations by recognizing only achievements in brawn, beauty and billiard competitions? Our young might get the impression that these are the only acknowledged areas of excellence. How about intellectual excellence? Is our government giving the same kind of attention and appreciation to our scientists, inventors, educators who bested other peoples of the world in the area of creativity, knowledge and ingenuity?

A case in point is Dr. Josette Biyo, a teacher of the Philippine Science High School here in Iloilo City.

An article was written about her in Sun Star-Iloilo which I quote: "Who can forget the explorer and teacher who has inspired many and showed to the world that even if we are from a Third World country, through training and support, we can soar to great heights and be at par with people from developed nations? She became the first Asian to bag the Intel Excellence Teaching Award in 2002, besting 4,000 other participants from different countries.

"Despite problems with her visa and (her having) to borrow a notebook computer from the United States delegates, she impressed everybody with her presentation. After winning the Intel award, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT's) Lincoln Laboratory named a minor planet after her. Planet Biyo is nine kilometers in diameter and is located at the belt between Mars and Jupiter."

To say that she brought honos to the Philippines is an understatement—she made the Filipino proud and the Philippines known by her outstanding accomplishment. The planet named after her is a testament to her outstanding record. But why has she not been given the same recognition that sportsmen and beauty contestants had been honored with? Is it because her event was not covered by television? Doesn't she deserve the Champion for Life award, too?

—REV. RONNY L. LUCES,
associate minister,
Jaro Evangelical Church,
Jaro, Iloilo City

State University not an elitist institution

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE column "A fighting chance" by Rina Jimenez-David. (PDI, 11/29/06) I really am wondering what her basis was for writing that column.

There is a very big difference between a state university and a private university. There is no point in comparing the two. The latter is a "business" undertaking. The University of the Philippines is a government-owned institution that is not supposed to make profit from its students; it's the government's responsibility, not the students', to pay the salaries of UP employees. As a "state university," it is only proper that it should be subsidized by the government.

I'm not in agreement with the proposal to increase the tuition fee since a lot of UP students come from low-income families (just like me who was able to study in UP under a scholarship). Most of the UP students cannot afford a P1,000/unit tuition. And there are issues concerning the UP tuition fee other than how it affects the (low) salaries of UP professors.

Lastly, UP is not an institution of the "intellectual elite." We UP students share what we learn from our researches and we even go to the poorest of the poor to serve them. We are educated to share what we have and to serve the country.

—GERNIMO BALSAMO,
1488 Benitez St.,
Ermita, Manila

Allowed in most countries

MORE THAN 130 COUNTRIES or about two-thirds of the world have embraced dual citizenship as a mechanism for integrating their nationals living outside their territorial borders. These countries include the most advanced and least developed, former socialist and current communist nations, and those identified as havens for terrorist activities.

Dual allegiance being inimical to national interest is not a burning issue outside sensitive areas, such as service in the armed forces and diplomatic service. Can two-thirds of the world be misguided?

Policy formulation lies outside the purview of sensitive areas. A total of 85 countries in the world allow dual citizens to run for public office. Many countries allot seats in their legislature for their expatriate citizens.

High-profile public officials in the United States are dual citizens. California Gov. Arnold Swarzenegger is a citizen of the United States and Austria. New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson is a citizen of Mexico and the United States. Are the United States, Austria and Mexico bothered about security issues?

Should dual citizenship be viewed as conferring rights to people who have abandoned their homeland?

Investment capital seeks the highest returns, consistent with the applicable risks. Dividends and gains, sometimes capital itself, are repatriated.

In the same fashion, human capital seeks the attainment of its highest potential. This is a rational goal that no one can rightfully suppress, much less, debase.

The "diaspora human capital" reaches out for the full use of God-given talents and the highest possible financial returns. Dividends and gains are repatriated in the form of inward remittances that propel GDP growth through personal consumption expenditures.

One should not expect the full repatriation of all of human capital; or seek to stem all outflow of human capital—given the importance of inward remittances to GDP growth, such a move would be catastrophic on economic activity and exchange rate stability.

When expatriates permanently return to the motherland, there is full repatriation of human capital. At that point, while the present value of the repatriated human capital may have peaked out, the depth of experience brought back could significantly raise the productivity of the motherland.

The economic or present value of "diaspora human capital" is maximized when it is afforded the opportunity of realizing the maximum sustainable cash flow. The present value of human capital is minimized when it is entrapped in an environment with limited opportunities.

The final insight then is this: The highest form of abandonment is the entrapment of human capital in an environment with limited opportunities. Encouraging the mobility of capital that results in optimized economic values for the motherland serves the national interest best.

—VICTOR S. BARRIOS,
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and moderator/convenor,
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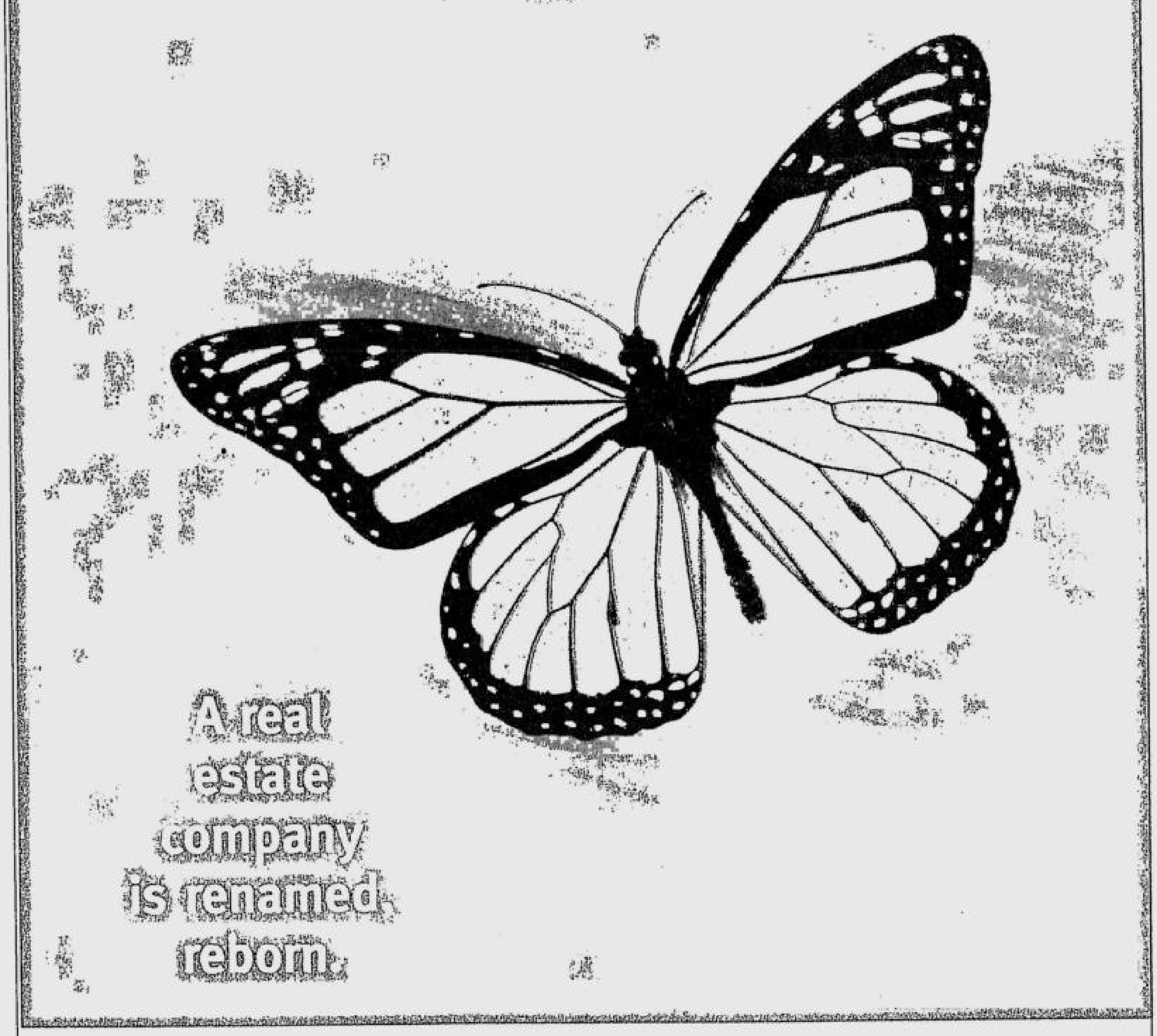
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Pacquiao lessons

I WOULD LIKE TO comment on the letter of Liza M. Vida of Kaisampalad Inc. (PDI, 12/1/06) Vida focused not on Manny Pacquiao's pugilistic skills, not on the glory and acclaim he has earned, but on the boxer's unrelenting struggle and eventual triumph over poverty. She wrote: "From a philosophical point of view, boxing reflects what life really is. Manny Pacquiao has shown that hard work, perseverance, belief in one's self and strong faith pay off. Pacquiao has become a symbol of hope for Filipinos, especially the poorest of the poor who can now see, in his rags-to-riches success, a light at the end of the tunnel of hunger and poverty.",

As in many such cases in the past, there will be a lot of air time, product endorsements and political leveraging that will follow Manny's latest achievement. For us to fully benefit from Manny's heroism, we have to see Manny in ourselves. We have to realize that we, too can rise above adversity.

But in order to do this, the adversary has to be identified and closely studied after which a strategy has to be mapped out. And then, we have to work with each other the way Manny worked with his trainers, his managers, his sparring partners, his dieticians, his doctors and his friends for a single purpose—which was to win against the enemy.

So instead of having Manny endorse an energy drink, can someone who is truly patriotic more clearly present this analogy to all of us who are begging to be led?

—WILLO KABILING,
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2006 • PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER A15

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Inventor turns used cooking oil into fuel

By Jani Arnaiz
Maasin City

EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD JARVIS CALAPRE OF Barangay Combado of Southern Leyte's capital Maasin City has been using used cooking oil he bought from a popular fast-food outlet to run his jeep for almost a year now.

He mixes the used oil with methanol and a catalyst formulated by his uncle, Dr. Rico Cruz, a US-based Filipino inventor.

Using a gallon (4 liters) of used oil he bought for P80, it would take only 10 minutes for Calapre to make the biodiesel fuel for his diesel-driven jeep.

Making the fuel is "just like making coffee," Cruz told the INQUIRER in an interview during his recent visit to the country.

Cruz, who has a doctorate degree in engineering from the University of Idaho in the United States, explained: catalyst as the coffee, alcohol as the sugar and oil as the hot water.

"Blend the three ingredients and you a have a coffee or a biodiesel in minutes," Cruz explains underscoring the simple and easy steps in making biodiesel fuel. "No heating whatsoever of the ingredients unlike those commercially sold biodiesel at pumping station."

"If you know how to make coffee, you'll know how to make biodiesel or biofuel. Even a 6-year-old child can do it," said Cruz, who was born in Bohol but was raised in Maasin City.

'If you know how to make coffee, you'll know how to make biodiesel or biofuel. Even a 6-year-old child can do it'

Cheaper

The secret of his biodiesel is in the catalyst he formulated and "perfected" in his 17 years of making biodiesel. He now only uses his biodiesel to run his 10 vehicles in Idaho, including a Mercedes Benz, claimed Cruz.

"My vehicles are still in top shape using 100 percent biodiesel and running over tens of thousands of kilometers from my residence to my workplace," Cruz said.

Cruz, however, said it is more expensive to make biodiesel in the US because coconut oil is difficult to find since American consumers hardly patronize the product as it has been criticized to contain an "unhealthy substance."

He said it is a different story for the Philippines where oil extract from plants can be had cheaper if only the government focused on the production of these oil sources.

On the biodiesel sold commercially, Cruz described it as "plain and simple highway robbery."

"How could a P140 to P150 per liter biodiesel or ten percent additive save on gas?" he asked.

He said that for 100 liters of oil (at P20-25 /liter) mixed with 20 liters of methanol (at P45/liter) and a kilo of catalyst (at P180/kilo), a consumer could already have 100 liters of biodiesel and about 20 liters of glycerin, which could be used among others to make bath and laundry soap.

Cruz calls his process of converting used cooking oil into biodiesel as "Cruzesterification."

Through this process, Cruz pointed out it would only cost around P3,180 to 3,500 to produce 100 liters of biodiesel compared to the prevailing price of P37 to 39 per liter of diesel.

Using biofuel would not require engine modification and it could even lubricate the engine, he claimed.

Sometime in 1986, while working for his doctoral studies on how to make alternative fuel at the University of Idaho, Cruz said he tested over a thousand types of chemicals and other oils before he thought of and settled on using coconut oil.

Finding success over using coconut oil as biodiesel, Cruz, a resident of Craigmont, Idaho, said he used his invention on his ten cars without engine modification.

Lukewarm reception

In 1993, he introduced biodiesel in the Philippines through the Department of Science and Technology, where he attempted to apply for a patent of his work.

"What happened is that I was prevented by DOST from doing so telling me that it would just be "stolen or copied." This was affirmed by DOST Eastern Visayas regional director Edgardo Esperancilla who said in an interview that they have been noting that patented inventions have been either stolen or copied.

In 1995, Cruz said he was hired for consulting work for the United Nations Transfer of Knowledge program to develop and produce biodiesel for the Philippine Coconut Authority service vehicles in Zamboanga City.

"Unfortunately, until now it has remained a pilot project," lamented Cruz.

Over the last two years, Cruz said he had talked with top government officials and policy makers, and it was only lately that his work on biodiesel was recognized and accepted.

But not without experiencing the dreaded bureaucratic red tape.

"I meet some people in the DOST who wants a cut for his invention and even from the corporate world they want a cut," revealed Cruz.

"Other countries like Russia, Bulgaria, Azerbaizan, Paraguay, and India they immediately received and welcomed my work, and so they were the first to use it," Cruz said.

Before members of the Couples for Christ (CFC) Gawad Kalinga's Tekton/livelihood ministry, Cruz made an actual presentation of his concoction at the Department of Trade and Industry.

He used four gallons of virgin coconut oil and the traditional coconut oil stirred in a pail with the right volume of methanol and catalyst (a concoction of potassium and sodium) for about 10 minutes to produce the biodiesel.

Cruz said the mixture should be left to settle for six hours to really separate the biodiesel and glycerin.

Glycerin could be used for bath or laundry soaps or even for fertilizer, said Cruz, an agricultural engineering graduate of the Leyte State University.

"The glycerin soap is like your everyday soap," he explained.

To be sure that it works, a tin of his biodiesel fuel and a pure diesel was lighted at the same time side by side. Cruz' invention emitted a thin smoke compared to the thick smoke that the pure diesel emitted.

Cruz said LSU is now piloting his formulation using a medium oil extraction equipment.

Jatropha

Since biodiesel is not yet commercially viable in the country, Cruz said he was setting his eyes on "a villager's strategic approach towards sustainable development and energy independence."

For a starter, he would want to persuade the officials of St. Bernard or the Southern Leyte provincial government to convert the 300-hectare landslide-covered Guinsaugon into a *tuba-tuba* (jatropha) plantation.

He said *tuba-tuba* is a versatile and low maintenance crop that bears oil seeds in 14 to 18 months. It is productive up to 50 years and easy to harvest.

Cruz said there should also be a massive campaign for planting of *tuba-tuba* on provincial and barangay roadsides, marginal lands or intercropped with existing croplands.

If this is realized, the province could annually produce 600,000 tons of biodiesel and 60 to 120 thousand liters of glycerin within five years, Cruz said.

DR. RICO Cruz demonstrates the making of biodiesel before members of the Couples for Christ Gawad Kalinga's Tekton/livelihood ministry in a forum in September.
JANI ARNAIZ

MEMBERS of the Couples for Christ share the biodiesel Cruz made in less than 20 minutes in room temperature.

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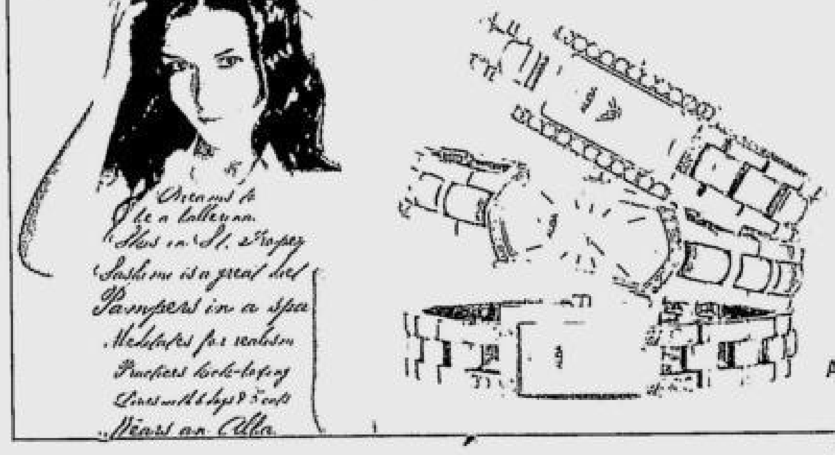

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Diseases stalking 'Reming' survivors

LEGAZPI CITY — Health officials urged local government officials to fast-track the provision of potable water and provide sanitary means of garbage disposal in this city and other areas in Albay as these were seen to cause an increasing number of diarrhea cases here.

A total of 20 diarrhea cases in the three barangays of Victory Village, San Roque, and Mauyod—all in Legazpi—were recorded by the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital on Thursday.

Dr. Ingrid Magnata, assistant regional director of the Department of Health in Bicol, said most of the victims were children aged two and a half to five years old.

Undocumented cases of diarrhea were reported in other villages while cases being monitored by health workers in evacuation centers were being referred to hospitals for confirmation.

Magnata said although there has been no outbreak yet, "what we are seeing is an increasing number of diarrhea cases and we have deployed surveillance teams to look into other diseases with epidemic potentials."

TYPHOON victims wait for the arrival of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Guinobatan, Albay. Ms Arroyo was to distribute relief goods to the province, hard hit by Supertyphoon "Reming."

REUTERS

The DOH set up two water purifiers in Albay for clean and safe water to be distributed by fire trucks to the evacuation centers.

It also asked the public to use chlorine solutions or to boil the water for five to 10 minutes before drinking, and encouraged the public to observe proper waste disposal, hygiene and hand washing.

Water samples from areas with diarrhea cases have been sent to the public health laboratory for analysis.

As of Thursday afternoon, surveillance teams, which were deployed to the 42 evacuation centers in Albay, found that the most common forms of diseases afflicting the evacuees were acute respiratory infection, 235 cases; wounds, 129; fever, 33, and diarrhea, 24.

In Albay province, there were over 4,329 families and 22,307 persons housed in temporary shelters like barangay halls, chapels, relocation sites, day care centers, public schools and private residences.

The DOH has intensified its watch on diseases that could arise like cholera, gastroenteritis, amoebiasis, typhoid, dengue and other food and waterborne diseases, Magnata said.

"We have started immunization and targeted all evacuation centers in the drive. We have isolated cases of contagious diseases and dispatched medicines in the different municipalities," she added.

A team from the National Center for Mental Health also arrived in the province to cater to the psychosocial needs of traumatized villagers through stress-debriefing sessions.

Tales of survival abound in the province.

At the height of "Reming" on Thursday, a police official said that a 10-month-old boy and his mother survived after their house was buried in a landslide in Barangay Buhatan, 8 km from Sto. Domingo town.

While the baby boy and his mother survived, seven other persons in their household were not as lucky. *Ephraim Aguilar and Joanna Los Baños, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

'Fish on every table' project launched in Pangasinan

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

SAN FABIAN, PANGASINAN—Water is not a problem in this central Pangasinan town where deep wells in almost every household continuously flow day and night.

Thus when the Philippine Council for Aquatic Marine Research and Development and the Plan Philippines selected the town as a project site for its Fish for Every Family Project (FEFP), a former overseas worker easily converted part of his backyard into a fishpond.

"This used to be a garbage pit," Ruben Matuguinas, an electrical engineer, said, pointing at his 60-square-meter tilapia pond.

Matuguinas used to work overseas until five years ago. He had been unemployed since and the family was relying on the income of his wife from a chicken dressing plant here.

Last year, Matuguinas cleaned the area, dug it and connected a pipe from a flowing well into the pond. He turned it into a tilapia pond where he produced about 30 kilograms of marketable fish during three production cycles of three to four months each.

The fish harvest is originally intended for the family's dining table but some are sold to their neighbors, giving extra income to the family.

Matuguinas, however, said he is deriving more income from tilapia fingerlings from the pond. He has sold more than 6,000 fingerlings and has an immediate order for 3,000 more. The fingerlings are sold at P1 apiece.

"This very small pond can earn that much," he told the INQUIRER.

Around the pond are different crops like calamansi (Philippine lemon), okra, ampalaya (bitter gourd), string beans, ube, camote (sweet potato) and papaya. Some of the vegetables are sold while some are set aside for the family's needs.

"Fish farming [has turned into] bonding and recreation time for the family. It also provides a whole and nutritious meal for the family. While the income is not that big yet, it has increased the food on the table," a nomination form for the search for best managed fishpond said about Matuguinas' pond.

His pond won the search by the PCAMRD and Plan Philippines.

Narcs arrest councilor, 11 others in drug den raid

COTABATO CITY—ANTI-NARCOTICS agents arrested at least 12 people, including a Lanao del Sur town councilor, during a buy-bust operation in Marawi City on Thursday.

Chief Insp. Romeo Espero, chief of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), said police also seized more than 100 grams of suspected "shabu" during the raid.

Espero said the seized shabu, which has a street value of about P500,000, was placed in five plastic sachets.

He identified three of those arrested as Lumbatan town Councilor Abdullah Sulaiman and suspected den operators Samsudin Kadir, 19 and Kalid Amir, 26. He said the suspects did not resist arrest.

Espero said they received reports that the suspects' house in Barangay Sabala Malao, a reclamation area overlooking Lake Lanao, was being used as a drug den so they decided to conduct a buy-bust operation.

He said during the raid, the suspected drug den operators were caught red-handed with five plastic sachets containing the shabu.

Espero said an investigation was still being conducted on Sulaiman and the other individuals arrested during the raid.

But charges of possession of illegal drugs had already been filed against the suspected den operators.

In Davao City, the reported drug lord slain in an ambush in Barangay Bangkal on Tuesday turned out to be another person.

Earlier, police said Lindongan Sinsuat, who was earlier arrested in Kidapawan City on drug charges, was the one killed when bonnet-wearing armed men ambushed a van in Bangkal.

Sinsuat had allegedly just posted bail when the attack occurred.

But Rosalinda Tula, a housewife from Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, said it was not Sinsuat who was killed but her husband, Teng Tula.

Teng was an inspector for Grand Transport, a bus company plying the Davao City-Tacurong City route.

Rosalinda said Teng had just withdrawn his salary from the company and was heading home when killed.

She said Sinsuat and Teng knew each other because her husband's elder sister, who already died, was Sinsuat's wife.

"He knew Lindongan that's why he rode in the van," she told reporters.

Rosalinda said her husband's ID cards were found in his body.

She said Teng had not been involved in illegal activities.

"He was always busy with his job," she said. *Jeoffrey Maitem and Charlie Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

Highway repair seen crucial to new province

DAVAO CITY—A YOUNG MORO official of the newly created Shariff Kabunsuan province said he wants to steer his people away from the bloody tradition of rido (feud) and 30 years of war by rebuilding the Narciso Ramos Highway, which links his conflict-torn province to Cotabato City and Lanao del Sur.

Shariff Kabunsuan, which has about 500,000 people, is made up of the towns of Sultan Kudarat, Sultan Mastura, Matanog, Buldon, Barira and Parang and the Lanao del Sur towns of Kapatagan and Balabagan. It was created on Nov. 28 through Muslim Mindanao Act 201.

Datu Mussolini Sinsuat-Lidasan, 31, and a board member of the province, said the repair of the highway will hopefully steer people away from violence and encourage them to live in peace.

The road was rendered impassable at the height of the war on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in 2000.

Lidasan, a former development worker for a United Nations (UN) project, said he also wants his people to realize that arming themselves is more costly than living in an atmosphere of peace.

"One M-16 (rifle), for instance, can cost as much as P60,000 to P70,000, which is about the price of two Kubota tractors. Why not buy farm machinery instead of guns?" he asked.

But he said unless the highway was rehabilitated, socio-economic reforms could not take place.

"Unless the road will be repaired to pave the way for socio-economic development in the area, people will continue to live the life of violence that had tied them down for years," Lidasan said.

He told reporters here that because of the lack of economic activity in his province, the people could not think of other things but violence.

"It's because guns proliferate and the Iranun people are very poor that they could no longer think of other choices but the life of violence. We want to address this, by improving the socio-economic life in the area," Lidasan said.

The entire area has been known as the land of the Moro Iranun tribe, according to Lidasan, a descendant of one of the Iranun sultans who led the Bugasan Sultanate prior to martial law.

He said to help start economic activity in the area the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA) is helping them put up a coconut nursery, initiate fruit tree planting and vegetable production projects to improve food and self-sufficiency.

"Close to 2,500 hectares near Camp Abubakar has been proposed for a coconut plantation. Trees and patches of vegetable gardens and demo farms would also be lined up along the highway," he said. *Germelina Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao*

A MUSLIM rebel guards a buffer zone in Kuloy village in Shariff Aguak town in Maguindanao, an area controlled by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

JEOFFREY MAITEM/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Execs say villagers in Negros town want military detachments

By Romy G. Amarado
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—VILLAGERS in the hinterlands of Sta. Catalina town in Negros Oriental, some 85 km south of here, are asking the military to set up detachments in their area due to the continued presence of the New People's Army (NPA).

Sta. Catalina Mayor Leon Lopez said that mountain residents have been asking him to facilitate the establishment of Army detachments in their villages "because they want to have a peaceful life."

Lopez said the residents, who are requesting for military detachment, are from Sitios Payaopayaoan and Lag-asan of Barangay Nagbinlod, Sitio Cadlong of Barangay Nagbalaye, and Sitios Banlas and Kalubasahan of Barangay Milagrosa.

Lopez said there was no written request but the residents have personally approached him in different occasions recently.

He said these villagers, most of whom are farmers, would no longer want to be disturbed as they go about making a living.

He said they were concerned about getting caught in the crossfire because the continued sighting of rebels in their communities would also invite the presence of soldiers and would result in clashes with government troops.

A barangay official in one of the hinterland barangays of Sta. Catalina, who requested anonymity to avoid antagonizing the NPA, also said that his constituents have been requesting for an Army detachment.

He said residents of a remote sitio in his barangay would leave their houses in the evening because of fear that they might get caught in the crossfire should government troopers and the NPAs chance upon each other and engage in a gun battle.

Lopez said he already informed Gov. George P. Arnaiz about the villagers' request and he was optimistic that the governor would help them bring the matter to the attention of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Sta. Catalina was a known rebel hotbed in the mid 1980s until the early 1990s. Their number was reduced considerably when the provincial government began implementing livelihood projects in rebel-controlled areas in 1991.

But government authorities here noted a resurgence of rebel presence in the town's mountain villages since about two years ago, as shown by the increasing number of clashes between government forces and the NPA, or between the NPA and its rival faction, the Revolutionary Proletariat Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade.

Governor Arnaiz, quoting reports from the intelligence community here, said many of the NPAs operating in the province were "imported" from Bohol and Leyte.

He said that the insurgents had a serious difficulty in rebuilding their lost foothold in Sta. Catalina since the residents are no longer supporting them.

PEOPLE travel on foot as they pass by a damaged road in Barangay Padang, Legazpi City. Rampaging waters and boulders destroyed the highway at the height of Supertyphoon "Reming." ERNIE SARMIENTO

Help for typhoon victims comes in trickles

LEGAZPI CITY—HELP FOR THE SURVIVORS of Supertyphoon "Reming" is starting to come in trickles.

On Thursday afternoon, 12,000 bags of rice were distributed to residents in three cities and 15 municipalities that suffered from Reming's onslaught.

The government of Spain was to send donations anytime, she said, while those of Malaysia and Indonesia had already sent relief goods.

The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and private corporations like San Miguel Corp. have also sent in help.

The provincial disaster coordinating council said foreign donors sent donations through either the regional disaster coordinating council, the PDCC or the municipal disaster coordinating council.

In Catanduanes, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan declared a state of calamity in the province and authorized the release of P9.6 million in calamity funds.

Catanduanes Gov. Leandro B. Verceles Jr. instructed the provincial health office to make an urgent request addressed to President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office for the rehabilitation of the Eastern Bicol Medical Center.

The storm's winds blew the roofs off the Out-Patient Department and two other buildings and smashed the windows of all wards in the hospital.

The operating room was rendered useless as water damaged sensitive equipment.

There was also no water supply, with the Bureau of Fire Protection fire truck now delivering water to the hospital.

JOEL Bejo digs from the mud that buried his house in the village of Binitayan on Dec. 6 in Daraga, Albay. AP

A small generator was lent by Rep. Joseph Santiago for use in the emergency room.

Damage to the entire hospital could amount to at least P30 million, according to health director Dr. Rico P. Lareza.

Lareza appealed for anti-tetanus shots, fluids, injectables, needles, gauze, cotton and other supplies.

Herbert Evangelista, provincial agriculturist, said damage to rice crops, coconut, abaca, livestock, fisheries had been initially pegged at P18 million.

The Department of Public Works and Highways said the contractor of the Catanduanes Circumferential Road Improvement Project had pledged to work with the DPWH and the San Miguel local government in removing landslides that buried sections of the national road to Viga.

The Virac Water District said the barangays of Cavinitan and Calatagan and portions of upland villages would be waterless for more than a month.

Damage to public infrastructure and pieces of property, including the province's power grid, has been pegged at an initial P370.8 million.

The Department of Education said 47 school buildings had been destroyed.

The province is also running out of flour and construction materials.

Communication lines are still down with only two-way radios functioning.

All banks have shut down online operations.

The distribution of relief goods started Saturday afternoon, with three C-130 planes of the Philippine Air Force landing Sunday to deliver more goods.

The municipal government of Virac began repacking goods Saturday morning as barangay officials started to arrive to bring lists of affected families. *Ephraim Aguilar and Fernan Gianan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Guards save 100 from floodwater in 'Reming' wrath

By Ephraim Aguilar
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—WITH ONLY A piece of cable wire to cling to and his strength stretched to the limit, security guard Rey Jan Borillo, 18, of Barangay Libod, Camalig, Albay, was able to save about 100 residents at the height of Supertyphoon "Reming."

Borillo was on duty at the Aspe Pawnshop, which was beside a narrow passageway leading to hundreds of shanties in the slums of Barangay Kapantawan in Camalig, when strong winds and torrents wreaked devastation here.

He saw how the flood rose and surpass the height of an average man, which sent residents in the village fleeing from their homes.

However, the strong current and increasing volume of floodwaters, and the hysteria it brought to the people, made it almost impossible to survive.

Hearing the cries of the residents for help, Borrillo, who was six feet and an inch tall, waded through the narrow passageway, carried old and young people on his back and brought them to a three-story building where the pawnshop was renting space.

"I really hoped to see everyone alive, even if I did not know them personally. Lost dwellings and property could be replaced but never a man's life," Borillo told the INQUIRER.

The building owner, Evelyn Brizuela, accommodated over 100 people and gave them food to eat.

Helping Borillo was his co-security guard Ricky Legisniana, 21, of Palanog Camalig.

"I was worried for my friend but I saw his courage and determination to offer help to those who needed it. Since he was taller than I was, I just stayed here in the building to get those people he had saved," Legisniana said.

Gasping for breath

Borillo, who got his foot wounded by stepping on a broken fluorescent bulb while saving lives, had to swim just to get to members of a family trapped in their house.

He recounted carrying an old woman who was gasping for breath as if she was nearing death and a woman who was engulfed by floodwaters jumping to keep her head above water and to catch her breath.

"I could no longer count how many times I had to go back to the village from the pawnshop. For as long as I heard cries for help or saw those who silently pleaded for it, I just kept going until I saw it was all over," said Borillo.

He and Legisniana, who did not have lunch while on duty that day, were still wondering where their strength came from.

They had also been on straight duty for 24 hours—the whole day when the typhoon made its landfall and the night the city was submerged, when only the roofs of vehicles and food stalls could be seen.

Both did not have quarters and simply sat on plastic chairs outside the pawnshop during the height of the typhoon without sufficient cover to shelter them from the raging storm.

After the typhoon, the two guards were on another straight duty for 24 hours as the guards who were supposed to relieve them were not able to report for duty.

"What happened was an ultimate test of strength. I am glad for what I have achieved and still could not believe I was destined to do such feat at the risk of even losing my own life," said Borillo.

Both said they were also worried for their families who were left in Camalig.

"While I was here saving strangers, I could not even help my own family during the disaster. But I felt better when I got home seeing them all safe," said Borillo.

No one was recorded dead or missing in the village the day after the storm.

"If it were not for the two security guards, this building and its generous owner, many could have died in our village," said Rey Abordo.

Debt threatens to cut power to 45,000 villagers

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

APALIT, PAMPANGA—AT LEAST 45,000 CONsumers in six Pampanga towns risk going without electricity for an indefinite time starting Dec. 11 should the Pampanga Electric Cooperative 3 fail to pay the National Power Corp. (Napocor) P70.8 million of its P503-million debt.

On Friday, or four days after Napocor senior deputy manager Alexander Japon served a notice of disconnection, Pelco 3 officer in charge Emilio Cortez told the INQUIRER that full payment could not be made on the due date.

"We can only pay partial, about P12 to P13 million. We have appealed to Napocor to extend the deadline up to Dec. 30 so we could raise the full amount," Cortez said. There was yet no reply to the request made on Thursday.

Aside from settling bills incurred since April 2006, Pelco 3 has been also asked to submit a revised debt-restructuring proposal that it failed to submit last time due to lack of audit reports and other financial documents.

Cortez said Pelco 3 could not immediately pool the money or give the restructuring plan because its financial records were incomplete, if not in disarray.

He said the amount of collectibles in its service areas—Apalit, Macabebe, Masantol, Minalin, San Simon and Sto. Tomas towns—are being determined.

He said this happened because the National Electrification Administration's management team had made "no proper turnover" of documents since it was recalled on Aug. 14.

In Office Order No. 099, NEA Administrator Edita Bueno ordered the team, however, to "clear itself of accountabilities and turn over its responsibilities to the duly designated and authorized representative" of the NEA.

The Pelco 3 board appointed Cortez on Sept. 4. Since then, however, the Pelco 3 Employees Association (PEA) and six mayors have questioned the investment management contract and equipment lease agreement with two subsidiaries of Asiaphil.

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JOHN PAUL LIZARDO of the Philippines scores against Rahim Hameed Ebrahim of Bahrain during their taekwondo competition. REUTERS

Bronze for 2 jins; 2 pugs win

By Ted S. Melendres
Sports Editor

DOHA, QATAR—FINWEIGHT KATHLEEN Eunice Alora and lightweight Veronica Domingo settled for the bronze medals in taekwondo Thursday night as the Philippines finally barged into the medal standings halfway through the 15th Asian Games here.

Two more boxers—"super-substitute" light flyweight Godfrey Castro and bantamweight Joan Tipon—clinched at least a bronze medal each after beating their respective foes in the quarterfinals.

They joined flyweight Violita Payla, who won his round-of-eight match Thursday, in the medal rounds Sunday.

Castro swarmed all over Ali Saad Al-Ahmry on the way to a masterful RSC-Os (referee stop contest-outscored) win in just 48 seconds of the second round while Tipon, who started out as a slight underdog, outpointed North Korea's Kim Won-guk, 22-15.

The tall but lumbering Korean took the first round, 6-5, but Tipon, always changing his pace during the fight, took the next three in the judges' scorecards, 5-3, 8-3, and 3-4.

"That was tactic, I always size up my opponent first before giving everything I have," said Tipon.

Alora displayed a fighter's heart in a spirited comeback in the third round but still bowed to eventual gold medallist Wu Jingyu of China in the semifinals while Domingo encountered a superior Chonnapas Premwaew of Thailand and was blown out of the mat in an abbreviated fight.

The lithe, 19-year-old Alora lost the fight, 2-3, but not before surging back from 0-3 down with 35 seconds left in the fight. It was a courageous performance that Domingo, the veteran who won a bronze in the 2002 Busan Asiad, failed to match.

A seemingly off-form Domingo never threatened Chonnapas, who put her away in the second round with six consecutive points, including a pair of two-pointer ax kicks.

Superior foes earlier prevented lightweight Donald Geisler and then finweight John Paul Lizardo from reaching the medal rounds.

Geisler, the Athens Olympian and former world championship silver medallist, bowed to a vastly superior Patiwat Thongsalap of Thailand, 3-6, in the round of eight, while Lizardo bowed to Bahrain's Al-Rahim Al-Hameed Ebrahim, 1-3, earlier in the day.

"Generally, it was a good start for us," said taekwondo head coach Stephen Fernandez. "Eunice lost to a better opponent."

Asiad first-timers Henry Dagmil and Joebert Delicano debuted with aplomb in athletics, both finishing second in their respective groups and making it to the 12-man finals of the long jump.

Dagmil, who celebrated his 25th birthday on Thursday, leapt to a distance of 7.78 meters and qualified in Group B behind Ahmed Faez Bin Marzouq of Saudi Arabia (7.94), while Delicano jumped 7.66 in finishing second only to another Saudi, Hussain Taher Al Saba (7.67).

Dagmil's leap was his season best and pales only to the 7.81 he set on the way to the gold medal in last year's Southeast Asian Games in Manila.

Delicano's 7.66 was a personal best. He achieved it on his third jump in the morning competition at the impressively refurbished Khalifa Stadium.

Jay Bayron fired a four-under-par 68 at the Qatar Golf Club's superbly manicured course in the desert to be in a four-way tie for second after the first round of the individual golf competition. He stood two shots off 15-year-old leader Pan Chang-tsung of Chinese Taipei.

LEE Young-yeo (right) barely avoids a kick from Sae Hadi of Iran. AP

But, despite Michael Bibat's two-under 70 and Marvin Dumandan's 71, the Filipinos could only come up with a 211 to be in fifth place in the team event, six strokes behind the South Koreans and three off the third-running Japanese.

Gene Bondoc tripped on three bogeys coming in and hobbled home with a 74 that did not count.

The female golfers trailed Japan by seven shots at 144 with Cyna Rodriguez scoring a 71 and Anya Tanpinco a 73. Dottie Ardina did not count with a 79.

Filipino bidders in beach volleyball finally succumbed to superior opponents and bowed out of the Games.

The popular Fil-American pair of Diane Pascua and Heidi Ilustre bowed to Thailand's Yupa Phokongploy and Usa Tenpaksee, 20-22, 13-21, after Parly Tupaz and Rhovyl Verayo lost to India's Mohan Poothathan and John Pradeep, 21-19, 19-21, 10-15.

Dick Takiban was the best-placed Filipino in the bodybuilding competitions at 11th place as musclemen from China and the United Arab Emirates dominated. The entry from Bulacan had 54 demerits in the -60 kg judging round.

Ricky Posas placed 13th in the -65 kg class with 67 demerit points.

'He wanted to win the gold this time'

SEOUL—THE WIDOW OF South Korean rider Kim Hyung-Chil, who died in competition at the Asian Games, said he had vowed to win his first gold medal for the first time in his career.

The 47-year-old veteran, the oldest member of the South Korean equestrian team, had never won gold in a major international competition although he took silver and bronze at previous Asian Games.

Meanwhile South Korean Prime Minister Han Myeong-Sook expressed her sorrow and shock Friday over the death and said the government planned a posthumous decoration.

Kim died when his horse, Bundaberg Black, hit a fence and stumbled, tossing him to the ground during Thursday's individual cross country event at the Doha Games. The mare fell on top of him and crushed him.

Team doctor Park Won-Hwa said Kim, who left a wife and two children, died from multiple skull fractures and severe bleeding.

"He always told me he felt guilty because he never won a gold. He promised to me he would win a gold this time," his grieving widow Soh Won-Mee said.

"He called me the day before yesterday and said he will save his face by winning a gold this time," his 11-year-old daughter Minji said, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported.

South Korean athletes pay their respects at a make-shift memorial shrine to equestrian rider Kim Hyung-Chil. AFP

Kim won a bronze in team jumping at the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul.

He won a silver in team eventing at the 2002 Busan Games, but never a gold in major international events and had planned to retire after Doha, which was his fourth successive Asian Games.

Government officials here said the prime minister called Chung Hyun-Sook, head of South Korea's 832-member delegation, and Kim Jung-Kil, who heads the the Korean Olympic Committee, to deliver her condolences.

"She expressed her sorrow and shock at the tragic death of the rider Kim Hyung-Chil," Han told AFP. *AFP*

Hosts strike gold; Japan makes waves

DOHA, QATAR—HOST QATAR WON ITS FIRST gold medal of the Asian Games in the equestrian three-day event Friday, a day after a South Korean rider died during the same competition.

Kim Hyung-chil, a 47-year-old member of South Korea's three-day event team and a former Olympian, was crushed by his horse after hitting a jump during the cross country section. It was the first death of a competitor in the 55-year history of the Asian Games.

While Kim's brother arrived in Qatar on Friday to collect the body, equestrian officials defended their decision to continue running the cross-country stage following the death and in deteriorating weather conditions.

"The horse approached the jump and essentially got too close before taking off, resulting in a somersault-type fall," equestrian technical delegate Andy Griffiths, a former British rider, said Friday.

"With the full weight of the horse landing on top of the rider on the other side of the fence, the rider was probably dead on impact."

Competition began two hours later, following a heavy downpour, and continued into Friday.

A minute of silence was observed at all competition venues shortly after Kim's death, the first to occur during competition in the Asian Games' 55-year history.

JAPAN'S Kosuke Kitajima swims his way to the gold in the men's 200m breaststroke. AP

The Qatar team's gold medal was just its 15th ever in the Asian Games, and first in equestrian. Japan took silver and Indonesia got the bronze.

Yoshiaki Oiwa claimed the individual event medal for Japan, ahead of Qatar's Abdulla Ali Abdulla Al Ejail.

India's Jaspal Rana equaled a world record to win the 25-meter center fire pistol competition on the last day of shooting.

Rana, who won the 25 meter standard pistol event on Thursday, joins seven shooters sharing the world record of 590 points set originally by Afanasijs Kuzmins for the then-Soviet Union in July 1989.

Wang Hongni of China won the first ever Asian Games triathlon gold medal, beating Japan's Ai Ueda and Akiko Sekine on the Corniche course.

Japan won three gold medals on the final night at the pool to finish the games even with China on 16-16 in swimming.

Dual Olympic champion Kosuke Kitajima took gold in the 200-meter breaststroke, Junya Koga won the 50 backstroke and the Japanese men won the 4x100 medley relay.

"I feel relieved because I won the gold medal," said Kitajima. "I couldn't swim a great time, but I am happy to contribute to the team."

Jordan won its first ever Asian Games gold medal when Mohammad Al Bakhit beat Vasavat Somswang of Thailand in the men's 54-kilogram taekwondo final.

"This is a historic day for Jordan," Prince Feisal Al-Hussein, brother of Jordanian ruler King Abdullah Al-Hussein, said from Jordan. "I hope this inspires other athletes. The whole of Jordan is celebrating tonight." *AP*

Liu's greatest Asian Games rival: Himself

DOHA, QATAR—LIU XIANG IS LITerally his own biggest competitor at the Asian Games.

Lacking a serious opponent, the Olympic champion and 110-meter hurdles world record holder will be targeting his Asian Games record of 13.27 seconds at Doha when he runs in Doha.

The track and field competition started Friday with four medals up for grabs, after China won both gold medals in the road walks on Thursday.

"Liu Xiang really has no opponent at the Asian Games so I've set him a target of 13.20," coach Sun Haiping was quoted as saying.

Following Liu's stellar 2006, winning the Asian Games gold might seem like a minor honor, but Sun says that's all part of the plan.

"He still has potential to improve," Sun said. "We hope to save the best for the 2008 Olympic Games."

Liu was training in Doha on Friday and a spokesman for the Chinese delegation said there were no plans for him to make any public appearances.

Liu equaled the world mark with his gold-medal run at the 2004 Athens Olympics, becoming the first Chinese man to win an Olympic sprinting event. He broke the world record last July, running 12.88 seconds in Lausanne, Switzerland.

That run won him the performance of the year award from the IAAF, the sport's governing body.

Liu's race is one of the highlights of the Asian Games athletics. *AP*

Nash lifts Suns past Nets in 2 OT

Hot-shooting Rasheed provides Pistons' spark

DETROIT Pistons court general Chauncey Billups (No. 1) charges into Dallas Mavericks defender Devin Harris. REUTERS

EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY—STEVE Nash scored a regular season career-high 42 points in leading the Phoenix Suns to a stunning 161-157 double-overtime win over the New Jersey Nets on Thursday, the fourth-highest scoring game in NBA history.

In a contest that featured 34 lead changes, Nash showed why he has been voted the NBA's top player for the last two seasons, nailing a tough three-pointer with just seconds left in regulation to tie the game before hitting nine points in the second overtime.

The victory extended the Suns' winning streak to eight games.

Nash overshadowed a brilliant effort from the Nets Jason Kidd, who had 38 points, 14 rebounds and 14 assists for his 78th career triple-double to tie Wilt Chamberlain for third place on the all-time list.

The Suns also received double-figure efforts from five other players to compliment Nash's career night, that also included 13 assists and six rebounds.

Shawn Marion chipped in with 33 points and nine boards while Raja Bell had 24 points and Amare Stoudemire contributed a double-double with 23 points and 11 rebounds.

Leandro Barbosa and Boris Diaw both had 16.

The Nets also produced a solid team effort with seven players, including Kidd, hitting double digits.

Vince Carter poured in 31 points before fouling out in the final seconds of regulation while Richard Jefferson had 25 and Marcus Williams 18 in the loss.

Tied 157-157 with just over 30 seconds to play in the second overtime, Diaw hit a layup to put the Suns in front to stay.

Nash was then fouled and hit both free throws to seal the win.

At Dallas, Rasheed Wallace scored most of his 19 points on five three-pointers, including back-to-back shots that he emphatically celebrated, to lead Detroit past the Mavericks, 92-82.

Wallace scored 10 points in the first quarter and had nine more in the third, all coming after a Dallas rally. They came in a flurry, too—three 3-pointers in a span of four possessions.

He followed the second one by jabbing his right index finger and screaming, "Pow!" After banking in the next one, putting the Pistons up by 16, he repeatedly hollered, "I called that!"

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 29 points and nine rebounds.

In Miami, Dwyane Wade came up an assist short of a triple-double scoring a game high 32 points, grabbing 11 rounds and dishing out nine helpers as the NBA champion Miami Heat claimed a 93-91 overtime win over the Kings in Sacramento. *AP, Reuters*

Bonds, Giants chase history

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLORIDA—Roll in the leather recliner. Dust off the row of lockers. Alert the entourage.

Barry Bonds is ready to sign with the Giants for next season.

A source close to contract negotiations confirmed that Bonds and the Giants had reached an agreement on a one-year contract for $16 million, and the deal would be consummated once certain language is finalized and Bonds passes a physical.

"We're working real hard to get something done," Bonds' agent, Jeff Borris, said. "I'm optimistic we're going to get something done."

Giants executive vice president Larry Baer had no comment other than to say, "Some progress was made."

The Agence France Press quoting the San Jose Mercury news and MLB.com also reported that the seven-time MVP had already agreed to a new deal to chase Hank Aaron's all-time homerun record.

Bonds, whose feats have been clouded by accusations of steroid doping, is second on the North American baseball all-time homer list with 734, needing 22 more to smash the career record of 755 set by Hank Aaron.

"I'm obviously excited about hopefully watching him make baseball history," Giants pitcher Noah Lowry told the Mercury News. "Hopefully he's healthy all year."

In addition to his power at the plate, Bonds walked 115 times in 130 games this past season, including a major league-leading 38 intentional walks, and has been walked a record 2,426 times in his career. *NYT News Service*

Giant Chinese harbors NBA dream

GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA—SUN Ming Ming's hands are enormous. While they are big enough to catch a basketball with one hand, they are similar to those of a shooting guard, able to sink one 20-foot jump shot after another.

Sun is no guard—at nearly 2.36 meters, he would be the tallest player in NBA history. But the pituitary tumor that led to his extraordinary size is threatening his life and keeping him away from a pro basketball career.

He recently underwent a second operation, though it could be years before Sun and his doctors find out if it was a success. Until then, he's doing what he can to prepare his body for the rigors of pro sports.

"When he first came here, he acted like a 60-year-old man," said Rocky Manning, who allowed Sun to stay with his family when he moved from China to the United States nearly two years ago. "He had a hard time just raising his arm above his head. If he would hold onto the net it would hurt."

The 23-year-old Sun has acromegaly, a condition caused by a tumor that leads his pituitary gland to overproduce growth hormone. It's why Sun is not only so tall, but weighs 175 kilos and has a 127-centimeter waist, a size that puts tremendous pressure on his joints. The tumor also limits testosterone production—which means he lacks strength, stamina and speed.

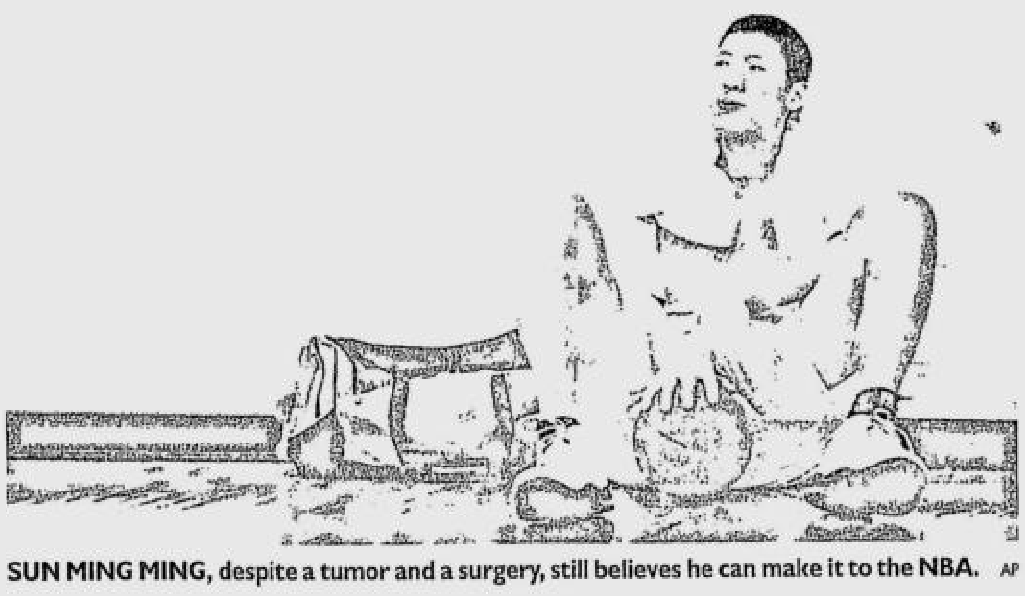
"In China, I would get tired running," Sun said. "I didn't know until I came here that I have a tumor."

It's rare that a case of acromegaly is diagnosed so late. A native of Harbin in extreme northeastern China, Sun grew up poor and in middle school was sent to a state-run basketball academy. He played on a lower-level pro team, but didn't have access to quality medical care.

Had he lived in the United States, there's little chance his condition would have gone untreated for so long, said Stephen Tatter, a neurosurgeon at Wake Forest's Baptist Medical Center.

"It's the kind of thing that if you saw a kid who was growing that fast, you would kind of walk over and hand his parents a card and tell them to come and see me," Tatter said.

Without treatment, it wasn't only Sun's basketball career that was threatened. Tatter's partner at Wake Forest's Gamma Knife Center, Volker Stieber, said patients with acromegaly tend to die from heart failure at a young age, usually in their 30s or 40s. AP



SUN MING MING, despite a tumor and a surgery, still believes he can make it to the NBA. AP

Fashion statement: Asiad athletes dressed to thrill

DOHA, QATAR—PART FASHION-STATEMENT, part necessity and often in respect of religious beliefs: the Asian Games in Doha brings not only unfamiliar sports but different looks as well.

Bright red and yellow kerchiefs for sepak takraw. Flowing robes for wushu. And for the women badminton players from conservative Iran, headscarves, long sleeves and ankle-length pants.

All of them encompass the varied cultures of the world's most populous continent and the Muslim sensitivities of Qatar, which is hosting the 15-day games that end on Dec. 15.

While some sports have tried to tone things down, others have been allowed free rein.

The Vietnamese women's sepak takraw team found ready inspiration for their headwear in their national flag, a bold yellow star on a red field.

"The whole team got together and agreed on the look," said captain Nguyen Thinh Thu Ba. "It really represents Vietnam well."

The women wore the look all the way to a gold medal in sepak takraw, a game where teams of three players propel a ball across a net with their feet, head and knees.

Competitors in wushu, or Chinese martial arts, can claim some of the most elegant costumes in competition, loose pants and tunics in mild pastel colors that belie the ferocious intensity of the discipline.

Weapons used in their routines are an additional form of adornment—bamboo staves, long, flexible spears with vermillion streamers, and swords shined to a mirror gloss.

Women athletes from conservative Muslim nations also need to adhere to cultural requirements for modesty. That meant Iran's badminton players had to wear head scarves, trousers and long-sleeve shirts.

"The rules are that the head and body must be covered, but not the face," said a member of the Iranian delegation, who asked not to be named.

Modesty-wise, beach volleyball, in which women players compete in abbreviated bikinis, has attracted the most concern in this conservative Muslim state. AP

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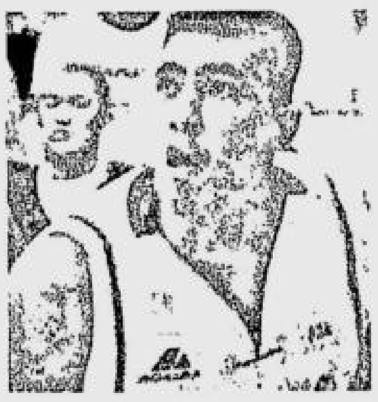
Yancy towers as Express rip Barako



YANCY DE OCAMPO. RUDY ESPERAS

By Musong R. Castillo

ANTIPOLO—YANCY DE OCAMPO scored 20 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to lead Air21 to a crucial 92-89 decision of Red Bull last night in the Talk 'N Text Philippine Cup eliminations at the Ynares Center here.

Gary David added 15 points and Ranidel De Ocampo had 14 points and nine rebounds as the Express climbed to 7-8 and kept alive their chances of making the quarterfinals outright.

All five Air21 starters chipped in twin digit scores as they helped deal the raging Barako a sixth loss in 16 games that dropped Red Bull out of second place.

The De Ocampo brothers delivered on both ends for the Express, who held off a last-ditch stand by the Barako anchored on hard-working big man Mick Pennisi.

"Our defense has improved a lot as evidenced by the way we won this game," said Air21 coach Bo Perasol, whose squad is the top-ranked offensive team in the tournament.

The loss stalled Red Bull's drive to inch closer toward one of two automatic berths in the semifinals.

Red Bull thus split its two games without coach Yeng Guiao, who was suspended on Wednesday and fined P65,000 for a mid-court altercation with Talk 'N Text manager Frankie Lim in Tacloban.

Meanwhile, Barangay Ginebra, the tournament leader, guns for win No. 11 against Alaska in Lucena today.

The Gin Kings put a 10-4 card on the line in their 6:30 p.m. clash with the Aces, a side which is hoping to put a string together to avoid being dragged into the wild card phase.

San Miguel takes the floor earlier opposite Coca-Cola in the 4:05 p.m. game, also seeking a victory that would prop up its chances of advancing to the Final Four outright.

The scores:

AIR21 92—De Ocampo 20, David 15, De Ocampo 14, Ielan 12, Arboleda 11, Dimaunahan 9, Avenido 5, Canaleta 4, Santos 2.

RED BULL 89—Villanueva 16, Alvarez 13, Valenzuela 12, Cruz 11, Pennisi, Sharma 10, Bagulo 7, Robinson 4, Najorda 2, Ybanez 2, Fonacier 1.

Quarters: 28-24, 45-53, 68-71, 92-89

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JASON Castro (left) will play a vital role for Hapee-PCU today. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Hapee-PCU shoots for 6th victory vs Comets

STANDINGS	W	L
Group A		
Hapee-PCU	5	0
H.-Sista	4	2
Mail & More	3	2
TeleTech	3	2
H. Centre	3	2
Toyota Otis	2	2
C. Lhuillier Pera Padala	2	3
Magnolia	1	4
Kettle Korn-UST	0	5

GAMES TODAY
(*Olivarez College Sports Center*)
2 p.m.—Hapee-PCU vs Mail & More
4 p.m.—Toyota Otis vs Kettle Korn-UST

THERE'S NO NEED to rev up Hapee-PCU's drive in the PBL Silver Cup.

The pacesetting Teeth Masters will try to stay unbeaten when they tackle the Mail and More Comets at 2 p.m. today at the Olivarez College Sports Center in Parañaque City.

"I believe the hunger factor remains as the main motivator of the team," said coach Jun Noel of the well-rested Teeth Masters, who will vie for their sixth straight victory.

"All our hard work had been paying off," noted Noel.

The Toyota Otis Sparks will also try to keep their winning form versus the struggling Kettle Korn-UST Tigers at 4 p.m.

The Teeth Masters have not seen action since posting a 76-67 victory over the TeleTech Titans on Nov. 28 and are slightly favored over the 3-2 Comets, who are on the rise through hefty Cebuano JR Quiñahan.

Mark Borboran, Jason Castro and Larry Rodriguez are expected to again lead the Teeth Masters, who are bracing for a tough fight from the Comets following Mail and More's 67-58 conquest of Magnolia last Tuesday.

"I credit the resolve of the players," said Comets mentor Lawrence Chongson after the win over Magnolia. "We've been limiting our opponents to less than 60. It's basically our defense; the offense can take care of itself."

The Sparks (2-2) are going for a second straight win after topping the Harbour Centre Port Masters also last Tuesday behind Erick Rodriguez who shot a personal high 17 points in their 64-60 triumph.

While most teams have recovered from their early struggles, Kettle Korn-UST continued its slide, taking a fifth straight loss against Henkel Sista, 80-78, recently.

It was the closest the Tigers have come to a win after lopsided setbacks. *Jasmine W. Payo*

More Sports stories on A25-28

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Matatag na haligi ng inyong kinabukasan

Illegal firearms stored in Jamby kin's condo

CIDG finds cache in Mandaluyong raid

By Alcuin Papa

POLICE SEIZED 30 ASSORTED FIREARMS, including four World War II Thompson submachine guns, and arrested three men Thursday in a posh condominium in Mandaluyong City.

The men were identified as Gustav Warns, reportedly a relative of Sen. Jamby Madrigal; Jesus Ora and Jamie Camille Brojan.

They will be charged with illegal possession of firearms.

Operatives of the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) Detection and Special Operations Division raided the condominium unit of Warns, apparently a vintage gun collector, at the 17th floor of the Pinnacle Condominium on Wack-Wack Road in Mandaluyong City.

The raid was covered by search warrants issued by Judge Reynaldo Ros.

Police confiscated 30 firearms, including two Remington shotguns, six Garand rifles, and a Russian AK-47 assault rifle; TNT explosives, a rifle grenade and ammunition for different caliber firearms.

A check with the PNP Firearms and Explosives Division showed none of the guns was licensed.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Sen. Madrigal for comment, but was told that she was in Indonesia. A faxed statement was later sent by the senator to the INQUIRER.

"An incident concerning a relative, Gustav Paris Warns, who was arrested by police authorities last night for illegally possessing 100 high-powered firearms, ammunitions and explosives, was relayed to me by my office in Manila," the statement said. "I commend the PNP-CIDG for doing their duty in arresting an alleged violator of the law.

"Let me state for the record that I have never and shall never tolerate any violation of the law whether they are my relatives or under my employ. The full force of the law must be felt by the rich and poor alike. There should be no exemptions. I will never use my position as a senator to unduly influence an outcome of any investigation, most especially if they are my relatives."

CAROUSEL FESTIVAL A worker puts finishing touches on a winter wonderland scene , one of the attractions in Marikina City's carousel festival that opened yesterday, Carousels built by the city's 16 barangays will vie for the best carousel award. RAFFY LERMA

Makati school to hold eight extra classes

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE 1,200 OR SO STUDENTS OF THE SAN Isidro High School will hold at least eight make-up classes until early next year to make up for lost school days because of a chemical spill two weeks ago.

Makati school division superintendent Elena Ruiz said yesterday the students would attend classes in the coming Saturdays to make up for a two-week class suspension following a chemical spill at the school laboratory on Nov. 26.

The school is expected to reopen on Monday.

"They will have to make up for the eight days when classes were suspended," Ruiz said.

She added that scheduled examinations on Jan. 18 would be moved back by a full week because of the make-up sessions.

The resumption of classes on Monday at San Isidro High was announced after experts declared that it was safe for the school to reopen. The four-story school building was closed two weeks ago after chemicals spilled inside the fourth-floor laboratory when a cabinet fell down.

The incident prompted emergency workers to cordon off the building for decontamination. School officials suspended classes.

A recent test showed that chemical levels inside the building were now "below allowable levels," Councilor Jejomar Erwin Binay said on Wednesday.

The building's fourth floor would remain closed, however, for further cleanup and renovation. The laboratory would also be relocated and redesigned. Ruiz said the floor would be closed at least until Dec. 30 for refurbishing.

It took a week for workers to clean up toxic debris inside the school. Some 1,855 kilos of chemical waste were disposed of on Nov. 30 by a waste management services firm .

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Cager Duremdes charged with concubinage

By DJ Yap

PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL PLAYER KENneth Duremdes and his second wife were charged Thursday with concubinage by the cager's first wife.

Earlier, Vanessa Cariaga-Duremdes, who claims to be the basketball player's legal wife, charged him with bigamy.

Cariaga claimed Duremdes, despite being married to her, cohabited with Ma. Theresa Ibasco under "scandalous circumstances."

In a complaint filed in the Quezon City prosecutor's office, Cariaga alleged Duremdes and Ibasco, with whom he had three children, committed concubinage by living together even though their marriage was not valid.

In a separate complaint, Cariaga claimed Duremdes falsified public records when he wrote "single" as his civil status in his application for a license to marry Ibasco.

She said she was married to Duremdes in a ceremony on Sept. 6, 1993, at the Manila City Hall with Rev. Jesus Mesa as minister, and Manolita San Luis and Nora Atienzo as principal witnesses.

She later found out that Duremdes entered into a second marriage with Ibasco on Aug. 15, 1996, before Judge Lucas Bersamin of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 96, she said.

In June 2004, Cariaga filed bigamy charges against Duremdes in the Quezon City prosecutor's office. But the Department of Justice suspended proceedings after Duremdes questioned the finding of probable cause in the case.

In his petition for review, Duremdes said he never appeared in the supposed wedding ceremony for him and Cariaga. He also denied signing a marriage contract or an application for a marriage license.

He said the case was filed despite the absence of findings by the National Bureau of Investigation authenticating the documents Cariaga presented as proof.

In February, Ibasco reportedly filed for annulment of her marriage to Duremdes on the basis of Cariaga's bigamy charge.

Navotas mayor hopes cityhood not an impossible dream in 2007

By Nancy C. Carvajal

NAVOTAS MAYOR TOBY TIANGCO IS NOT about to lose hope on a bill granting city hood status to his town before the year is over.

"Plans for the town's 101sth anniversary celebrations next year are now in full swing, and we are hopeful that we would be a city by year's end. It would be nice if we could mark our foundation day as a city in 2007," said Tiangco.

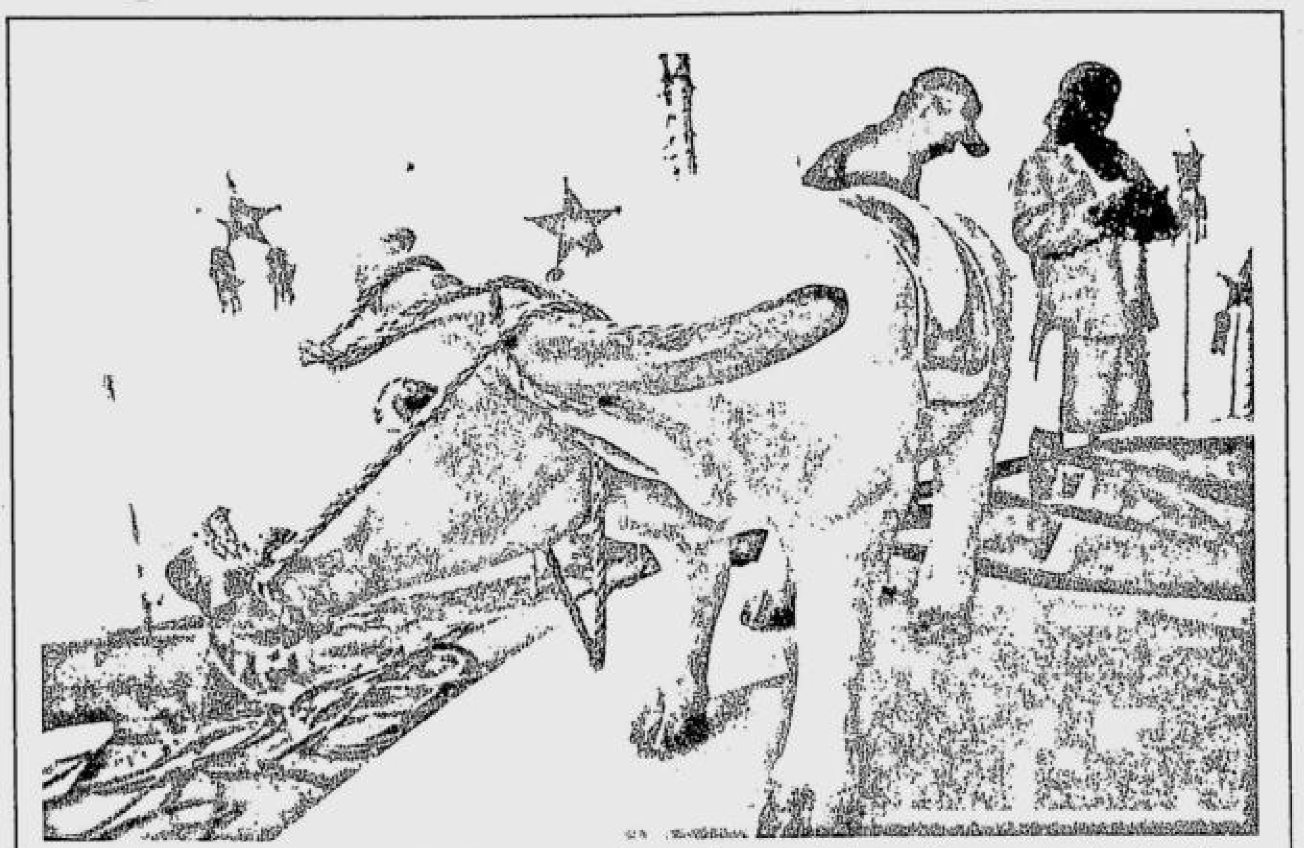
The mayor said the town had met all the requirements for it to qualify as a city, in terms of income, population and land area, and would be a big boost for the people of Navotas.

The bill that would make the town a city was put on hold when its author, Rep. Ricky Sandoval (Malabon-Navotas) sent it back to the House Committee on Rules after he disagreed with some of the amendments introduced by senators.

In a previous interview, Sandoval said he could not approve the separation of Navotas from Malabon City as a district during the 2007 elections as a result of its city status. He said he would agree to its separation if an election for its representative would be conducted two month's after the midterm election.

Tiangco's optimism stemmed from a privilege speech made by his ally, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada at the Senate the other day. He said the senator's speech pushing for the immediate granting of city hood to the town could just be the "push needed to keep things going."

"I am happy Sen. Estrada shares our sentiments and took up the cudgels for the people," Tiangco said. The Navotas mayor is the Pwersa ng Masa spokesperson in Metro Manila, the political party founded by former President Joseph Estrada.



NOT HORSES, but carabao figures like this one, apart from sea horses and zebras, will grace carousels entered in a special competition in Marikina City. RAFFY LERMA

Carousel festival opens in Marikina

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THESE CAROUSELS DON'T HAVE HORSES IN THEIR "stables."

Sixteen barangays in Marikina City have put up their own version of carousels with smiling zebras, carabaos pulling wooden carts, elephants, lions and even sea horses.

The carousels are entries in an annual Christmas display contest organized by the city government involving the participation of the city's 16 barangays.

But, sorry, children cannot ride on all of the carousels. Some figures are only made of paper.

With an P80,000 budget, each barangay was given three weeks to prepare their entries.

Trying to outdo one another, some barangays have even gone beyond their budget allocation from the local government.

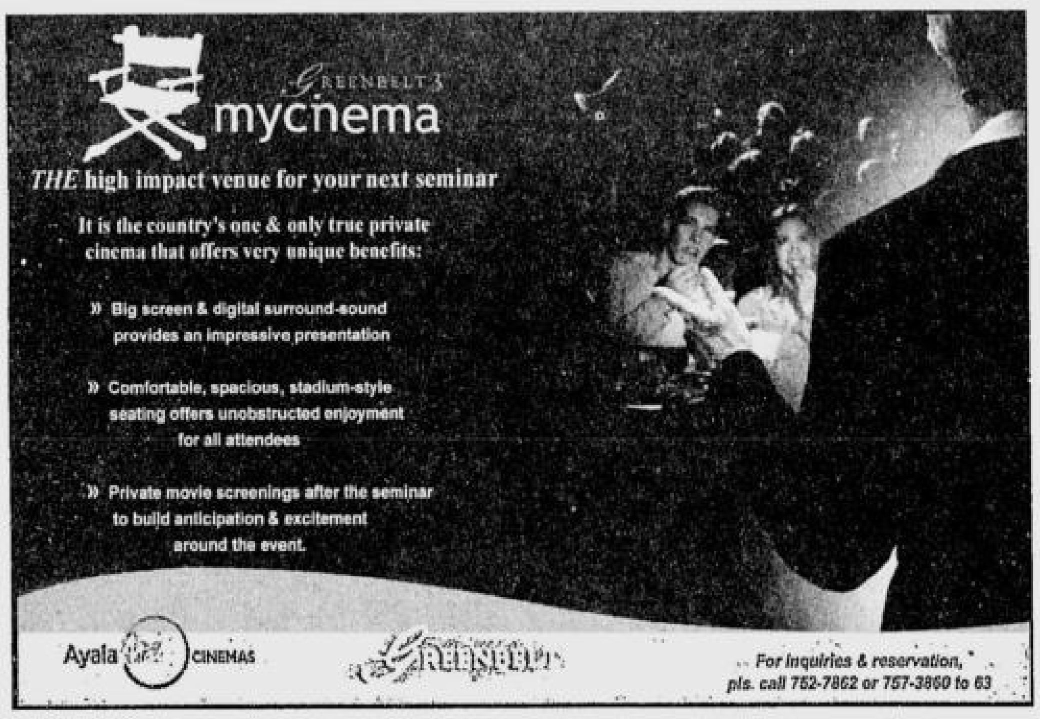
"We just want to make our residents happy this Christmas. That is our main goal so most of us here have spent a lot for our entries," said city association of barangay chairs president and Barangay Barangka chair Frankie Ayuson.

Ayuson said his barangay shelled out an additional P150,000 for its carousel of happy zebras made by sculptors from Paete. Barangay Sta. Elena, on the other hand, used up more than P300,000 for their sea horse carousel, said barangay chair Celso Mendoza. The carousel sits on a pool constructed especially for the display to make it give an illusion that the sea horses float on water. The pool is also equipped with fountains.

The grand prize winner will get P120,000 while the second and third placers will take home P80,000 and P50,000 respectively.

The city public information office said the barangays were assigned particular animals as themes for their carousels which were presented in a festival that opened yesterday. Finalists will be selected next week.

The winning entries will be announced early next year.



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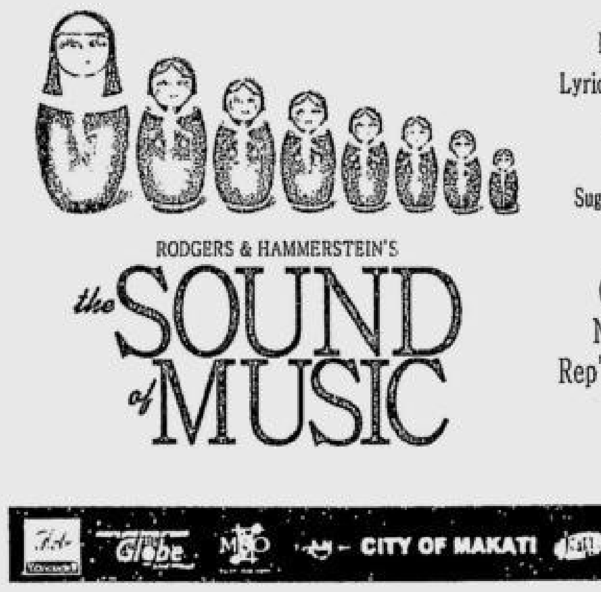

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Gov't aid to typhoon victims not enough

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE DEVASTATION WROUGHT BY Supertyphoon Reming on Bicol is unbelievable.

I saw the destruction everywhere in Legazpi City and nearby places: toppled electric posts, felled trees, flattened houses, blown-off rooftops, and a creek turned into a sea of mud and sand.

Some people I met in the streets were walking like zombies, their eyes wide open in shock.

It seemed like a mini atomic bomb exploded in the middle of the affected areas.

And yet, I saw little government presence in the devastated areas in the form of assistance to typhoon victims.

As my secretary, Janet Bandoy and I were buying sacks of NFA rice at the Legazpi City public market late Wednesday afternoon that we would distribute to the victms in Barangay Banag, Daraga, Albay, a man mistook us for government people.

He angrily told us in the Bicol dialect: "You should have stocked up on rice before the tragedy. Why do you buy rice now and distribute it to the victims?"

Janet and I arrived at the Legazpi City airport from Villamor Air Base late afternoon Wednesday aboard an Air Force C-130 cargo plane. We had with us canned goods, clothes and medicines that I had solicited from friends in Manila. From the airport we went to the public market to buy rice, candles and matches for the Daraga flood victims.

Janet is from Barangay Banag. Her house, along with those of her neighbors and relatives, were swept away by floodwaters. Several of her relatives were either killed or are missing.

Many private individuals and civic groups have gone to Bicol to distribute foodstuff and medicines, among them Lilia "Baby" Pineda, former mayor of Lubao, Pampanga. Some countries have sent relief goods.

But the relief assistance is just not enough. There should be massive relief assistance to the typhoon victims. As of now, all the aid is just a trickle, compared to the destruction wrought by Reming.

Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Jose L. Reyes, who saw the destruction aboard a C-130 aircraft, told me there ought to be a mass post-traumatic therapy for the Reming victims.

But how is that possible when the government can't even give material aid to the Bicol victims?

If President Macapagal-Arroyo, who visited Legazpi Tuesday, thinks that her presence eased the suffering of the victims she should think again.

"We haven't seen government aid. Why should we be happy over her presence here on Tuesday?" said one victim.

METROBRIEFS

Bombs unearthed

PANIC gripped a community in Manila after some construction workers unearthed vintage grenades and ammunitions yesterday morning. SPO2 Eusebio Zambrano Jr. of the Manila Police District-Explosives and Ordnance Division said workers of MBSF Construction found four grenades and several rounds of ammunitions believed to date back to the second World War around 10 a.m. yesterday. Investigation showed that the construction workers were conducting digging operations at the back of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente Church on the corner of Taft Avenue and Escoda Street, Ermita, when the bombs were found. Bomb experts immediately responded and went to the area where the bombs were seen. Authorities said the bombs are still active and can explode if they were hit by a hard object, dropped from a certain height or exposed to extreme heat. The bombs were turned over to the Explosive Ordnance Demolition Unit of the MPD for proper disposition. *Tina G. Santos*

Disabled persons sticker launch

MANDALUYONG City's Disabled Persons Affairs Division, in cooperation with the Tricycle Regulation Office, will launch today the vehicle access for disabled persons sticker program to ensure that the disabled sector's special needs on transportation will be addressed by the transportation sector in Mandaluyong. The sticker will be issued to bonafide holders of valid and existing franchises to operate tricycles in the city. Tricycle drivers are expected to display the sticker in their vehicles The sticker will also protect disabled passengers from paying exorbitant fees imposed by abusive drivers.

Fake agents nabbed inside NBI office

By Tina G. Santos

TWO MEN WHO ALLEGEDLY POSED as agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) were arrested by authorities in an entrapment operation inside the bureau's headquarters in Manila the other day.

Complaint

Arrested were Enrique Magan, 35, and security guard Hilario Sadiosa, 36, both of Manuguit, Tondo.

The suspects' arrest came following the complaint of taxi driver Ernesto Radam, 49, of Bacoor, Cavite, who claimed that Magan and Sadiosa introduced themselves as NBI agents.

Radam said he was told to cough up money as payment to a certain Baby, an alleged recruiter.

Claim

The recruiter claimed that the complainant, whose daughter went to Japan, owed her P800,000.

Help

This prompted the complainant to seek the help of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Manila, which immediately coordinated with the NBI in an entrapment operation.

The complainant initially met the suspects at a fast-food chain in front of the NBI headquarters on Taft Avenue around 3 p.m. for the payoff.

Ploy

To make it appear that they were NBI agents, the suspects even went inside the bureau's Special Task Force division.

It was at this point that they were arrested by the authorities.

Fake cards

STF chief Arnel Dalumpines said the suspects were turned over to CIDG Manila.

Seized from the suspects were fake NBI identification cards.

Charges

Dalumpines said he would recommend the filing of usurpation of authority and falsification of public documents charges against the suspects.

Russia opens own murder probe of spy's death

MOSCOW—RUSSIAN PROSECUTORS said Thursday they were opening their own murder inquiry into the death of Alexander Litvinenko as a funeral was held for the former Russian spy at a central London mosque.

A spate of new poisonings added further intrigue to the affair, including that of a private Russian security agent Dmitry Kovtun who met Litvinenko last month in London, according to Russian officials.

Kovtun "has also been found to have an illness connected with poisoning with a radioactive nuclide," the Russian prosecutor general's office said in a statement.

Seven staff at the Millenium Hotel in London where Kovtun met Litvinenko for business talks on Nov. 1, the day Litvinenko fell ill, also tested positive for radiation on Thursday, British public health officials said.

British investigators, who arrived in Moscow on Monday, met with Kovtun this week in the clinic where he has been undergoing tests for the same radioactive substance that resulted in Litvinenko's death.

A spokesperson for the Russian prosecutor's office said a Russian investigation team may also head to London to probe the death, as well as the suspected attempted murder of Kovtun, Interfax news agency reported.

The case has strained ties between London and Moscow with Litvinenko's relatives accusing the Kremlin—and in particular President Vladimir Putin—of having him murdered.

The Kremlin has vigorously denied the claim as "nonsense."

In London, family and friends, including fugitive Russian oligarch Boris Berezovsky, paid their respects to Litvinenko at a funeral ceremony Thursday, preceded by a memorial at a London mosque.

A black hearse topped with white wreaths led a funeral procession of about 10 cars to Highgate cemetery in north London—final resting place of Karl Marx—for the non-denominational burial.

"It is Putin who killed my son," said Litvinenko's father, Valter.

Another Russian who was at the meeting with Kovtun and Litvinenko, a former Kremlin bodyguard who has come forward as a key witness, has said he is undergoing medical checks at a Moscow clinic but is ready to meet police.

On the same day as his meeting with Lugovoi and Kovtun, Litvinenko also met an Italian contact, Mario Scaramella, who has since tested positive for the same radioactive substance, polonium-210, that killed the ex-spy.

Russian prosecutors meanwhile said they had opened their own murder investigation into Litvinenko's death, as well as investigating Kovtun's poisoning.

"It has been established that Litvinenko died as a result of poisoning by a radioactive nuclide," the prosecutor general's statement said Thursday. *AFP*

MARINA Litvinenko, wife of poisoned former Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko, attends the burial of her husband at Highgate Cemetery in London Dec. 7.
REUTERS

Last Pearl Harbor gathering

PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII—Since that terrible morning 65 years ago, the survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor have been called heroes, VIPS of the greatest generation, and the first American witnesses to the last world war.

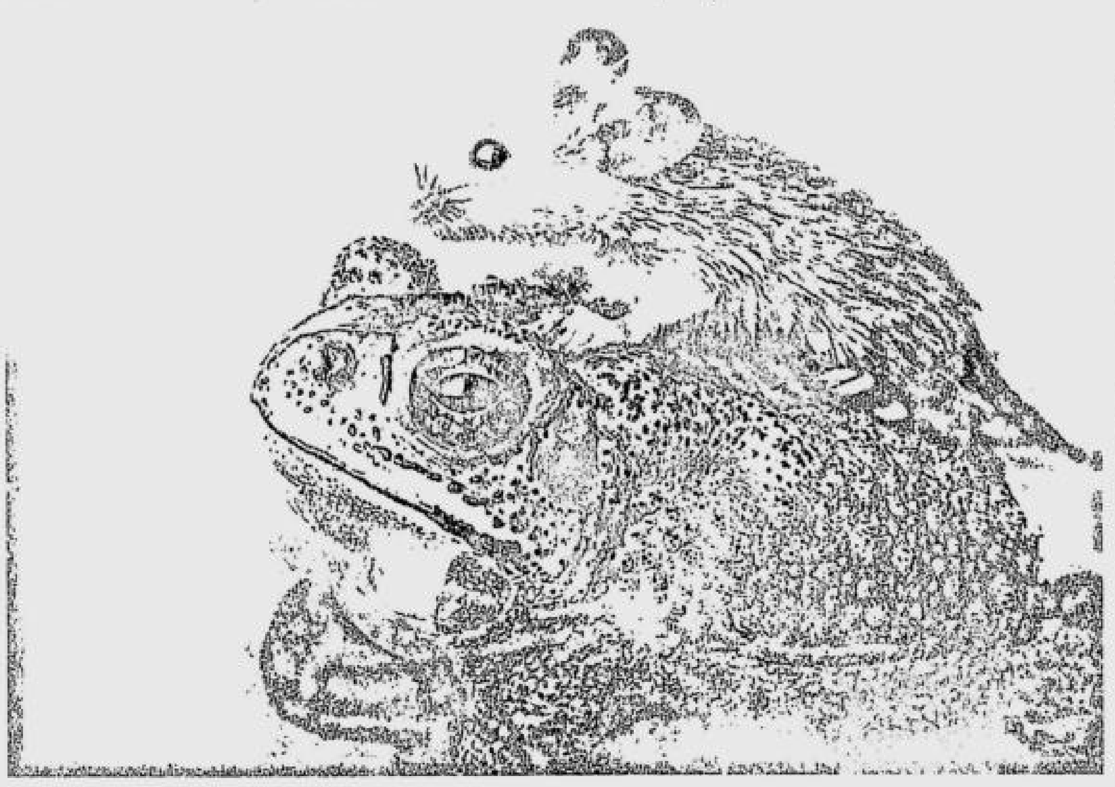
But with age slowing even the most hardy of old sailors, Marines and airmen, the major national survivors group has decided this year's anniversary gathering will be its last in Hawaii.

"We're getting about as extinct as the dodo bird," said Mal Middlesworth, the president of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, which traditionally meets here every five years.

Middlesworth, 83, who watched the attack from the deck of the heavy cruiser USS San Francisco, said much of his membership of 4,600 survivors had simply gotten too old to travel great distances. "There's a lot of people in wheelchairs and in walkers," he said. "And we don't have any replacement troops."

But if they're going, they're going with a bang. Organizers said the crowd at Thursday's commemoration on the harbor—dubbed "The Last Reunion"—was one of the largest in years, with more than 3,000 spectators, double the number expected, some of whom camped out well before dawn to enter. That number included about 400 survivors, decked out in naval hats, campaign ribbons and medals.

New York Times News Service



FROGGY-BACK RIDE

In one of 2006's memorable images, a mouse rides on the back of a frog in floodwaters in the northern Indian city of Lucknow June 30.
REUTERS

Diana inquest hearings in UK to be held in public

BRITAIN—BRITISH HEARINGS into the deaths of Princess Diana and her companion Dodi al Fayed will be held in public after a decision that they should be conducted in secret was reversed, judicial authorities said on Thursday.

The original decision of presiding judge Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss had been strongly criticized by Fayed's father Mohamed, owner of the exclusive London store Harrods.

The preliminary hearings, scheduled for next month, are the latest step in efforts to get to the bottom of the death of Diana, ex-wife of British heir to the throne Prince Charles.

Diana, who was 36, Fayed and their chauffeur Henri Paul died when their Mercedes limousine smashed into a wall in a Paris road tunnel in 1997.

A two-year French inquiry blamed the crash on Paul, saying he was drunk, under the influence of anti-depressants and driving too fast.

The British inquest was opened in January 2004 and then royal coroner Michael Burgess asked police to hold a top-level investigation into the circumstances surrounding the deaths.

He said he wanted John Stevens, the former head of London police, to examine conspiracy theories that the couple were murdered by British spies to cover royal embarrassment about their relationship.

Diana and Charles had two sons, Princes William and Harry, but their marriage ended in divorce.

Stevens is due to unveil the results of his three-year investigation next week.

A spokesperson for Mohamed al Fayed, who remains convinced that the couple were murdered by British spies to prevent his son, a Muslim, from marrying Diana, welcomed the decision. *AFP*

Indonesian court rules truth commission illegal

JAKARTA, INDONESIA—Indonesia's Constitutional Court has ruled the country's much criticized truth and reconciliation commission is illegal, casting doubt on whether victims of rights abuses under former dictator Suharto will ever see justice.

The body, which had yet to start sitting, was intended to probe the political killings, disappearances and massacres that occurred during the 32-year regime of Suharto, which ended in 1998.

Critics say that lawmakers, many with links to Suharto and the brutal military that propped up his rule, created a severely flawed body that infringed on the rights of victims and did not allow for the full truth behind the abuses to be revealed.

The court Thursday declared several articles concerning the provision of amnesty and reparations in the laws setting up the commission unconstitutional and said the body had no legal basis.

The surprise ruling means that new laws will have to be rewritten to set up the body, a process that will likely take several years and be dependent on the political will of current President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, himself a former military officer.

"The fact that the legislation has been struck down should not relieve the Indonesian government of its ongoing commitment to provide justice, truth and reparations to victims of gross violations of human rights," said Paul van Zyl, the vice president of the New York-based International Center for Transitional Justice.

"It places a greater obligation on the government to ensure that the rights and needs of victims are properly addressed," he said.

Presidential spokesperson Andi Mallarangengan said the government was studying the ruling, and "its implications for the future."

The court made its judgment in response to a plea by right groups, which were seeking to challenge several articles in the law, not to have the whole body declared illegal.

The commission has long faced opposition from right-wing Muslim groups opposed to any move to uncover the truth behind the massacre of around 500,000 suspected communists in 1965. The killings were mostly carried out by Muslim groups under the orders of Suharto, who assumed power a year later.

Still powerful military officers are also against the commission, which could reveal the extent of army killings in putting down separatist movements in far-flung regions, notably Papua and Aceh.

Suharto, 85, has been declared too sick to stand trial for any crimes committed during his rule. *AP*

INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
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ABC 5	Amerika, Atbp.		Kids TV	TBA	PBA On Tour					Teka Mona		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Shall We Dance		Philippine Idol	PBA On Tour		
ABS-CBN 2		Nagmamahal, Kapamilya		Let's Go		Star Magic Presents		TV Patrol World	Komiks: Pedro Penduko		John En Shirley		XXX		Pinoy Dream Academy		Aalog alog		Sports Unlimited
AXN		The Rundown				WRC 2006 Great Britain		Ultimate Guinness World Records	E Buzz	The Ultimate Fighter (Season II)		Fear Factor (Season V)		House (Season II)		The Amazing Race Asia		Alias (Season V)	
bTV	OverTime Jerry West	PBA TV	NBA Spls. Soul of the Game	NBA: Grizzlies @ Bucks					ACC				NBA Live	NBA Fantasy Hoops	NBA: Grizzlies @ Bucks				
Cartoon Network																	The Brak Show		
Cinema One	Kahit Isang Saglit				Honey Nasa Langit Na Ba Ako			2006 Cinema One Originals Awards Night		I Think I'm In Love			Campus Girls				Dilim		
Cinemax		Timeline (3:10 PM)				Witch Hunt (5:15 PM)				Cerberus				The Bodyguard				Private Parts	
CNN	Next@CNN	World News	Inside The Middle East/CNN Bus Traveller/Global Office/Global Challenges	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Living Golf/Revealed/ManSail/Art of Life	World News	World Sport	World News	Inside The Middle East/CNN Bus. Traveller/Global Office/Global Challenges	CNN Presents/Quest	Next@CNN	Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Crime/Suspense		The Unit		The Closer		Law and Order		CSI Chronicles: Cold Case Files		Bones		The Unit		E-Ring		Shawshank Redemption			
Discovery Channel		Born Again Buddhists		Why Intelligence Fails		Power Zone				Perfect Disaster		Deadliest Catch		Tribe		A Haunting		Perfect Disaster	
Disney Channel	Maya & Miguel	Totally Spies/ Totally Spies 100th Ep	Hannah Montana Catch Up Weekend			Hannah Montana	American Dragon Yr. 2	Emperor's New School	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Mr. Bean	Wonderful World Of Disney			America's Funniest Home Video	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mortified	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Billiards Int'l Events '06		Atlantic Coast Conf. Holy Cross Vs Duke				Australian Open Golf C'ship '06 Day3				Golf Hawaii	UEFA Champions League Magazine Show	NBA Action	NBA: Wizards @ 76ers				
ETC		Everwood Season 2		Friends	Will & Grace	Veronica Mars		The O.C		Beauty And The Geek		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Nanny 911		Today Show - 1 Hour - Version		Dateline		The Biggest Loser 2		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One	Cold Turkey 1		Inside The Actor's Studio		ER		NBC Nightly News	WSJR
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business
GMA 7					Wish Ko Lang		Fantastikids		Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos		Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho	Imbestigador			Hokus Pokus		Showbiz Stripped
Hallmark Channel	In Love And War				Beyond The Call				Color Of Justice				The Temptations						
HBO			Beethoven's 2nd			The Saint				Madeline				Must Love Dogs			The Big Preview: Deja Vu	Six Feet Under 61: All Alone	
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IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		EZ Shop	Auto Review	Japan Video Topics/ Arts		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Arts		Bitag		EBC Earth Files	Medtalk With Dr. Z		
JackTV	My Name Is Earl	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	Arrested Development	Last Comic Standing		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show Jon Stewart	X-Men	X-Men	The Batman	Justice League	Wwe Raw				Weekend At The D.L.	Reno 911	Insomniac With Dave Attell	Manshow
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MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	MTV Arena		MTV Europe Music Awards: D' Winners Ala.		MTV2 Platinum Ladies of Hiphop	Craig David at Replay's 25th Anniv	Cribs	My Own	The Hills	8th & Ocean	MTV Live		MTV Hits		MTV Hits		Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	MYXellaneous	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	MYXilog
National Geographic		Taiwan To The World		Extraterrestrial				Sea Hunters		About Asia		Ultimate Experience		Top Gun Work		Family Specials		No Borders	
NBN											The Working President	GSIS Member's Hour		Isla Hour On NBN		A.S.K.		Krusada Kontra Krimen	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Quadiga	The Planet	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Tamang Daan		Net 25 Weekend Report	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tribe	Convergence	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Pagbubunyag		Net 25 Weekend Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	The Fairly Odd Parents/ Let's Just Play A-Thon: The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	The X's	Danny Phantom	Trollz	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Abakadabra				Gintuang Talp				Tumbasan Mo Ng Buhay				Bata Ikaw Nanginginig Pa				Zatoichi
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Elementar Cerid		Posh		The Return Of Wonder Woman		Ayill Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown				Moby Dick	
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SBN 21								Barangay Uniting thru Chess		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepherds Voice		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports				FIVB		Hoop Nation		Raceworld		WNCAA		Rookie Manual	Pinoy Rider	UFC The Tournament				ECW	
Star Movies		The Ladykillers (3:15 PM)				Ladder 49				Home Alone 2: Lost In New York				Mr. And Mrs. Smith				Never Say Never Again	
Star World		Third Watch		Miami Vice		Desire Table For Three		Philly		One Tree Hill		TNA Xplosion		Ghost Hunters		J.A.G		Mutant X	
Studio 23								Sports TV	Pinoy Dream Academy		Survivor Cook Islands		Supernatural		Barkada Nights				Reel Deal
UnTV				KNC Show	Ang Dating Daan	Chika Mo, Chika Ko		Believer TV				Ang Dating Daan							

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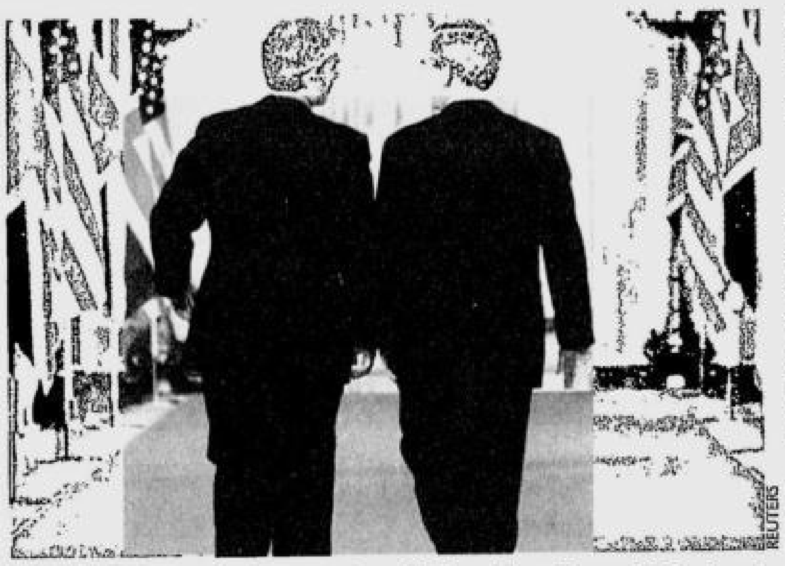
The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

2M Iraqis fleeing chaos jam nearby states


REUTERS

ONE OF the images of the year shows US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair leaving the East Room of the White House after speaking to reporters about Iraq in Washington May 25.

AMMAN, JORDAN—EVERY DAY AT DUSK AS the streets here empty, people like Halima Reyahi scramble to become invisible again.

She sticks to side streets, her eyes scanning for the increasingly frequent police dragnets and checkpoints set up in search of illegal Iraqi immigrants like her. The loneliness of her exile is magnified by the fact that her four sons have been turned away repeatedly at the Jordanian border.

Reyahi is one of nearly 2 million Iraqis who have fled the chaos of their country since the US invasion of 2003, flooding neighboring states, especially Jordan and Syria, but also Lebanon and Egypt.

As they leave Iraq at a rate of nearly 3,000 a day, most going to Syria and Jordan, the refugees are threatening the social and economic fabric in both countries. In Jordan, hundreds of thousands of Iraqis are trying to blend into a country of only 6 million inhabitants, including about 1.5 million registered Palestinian refugees. The governments classify most of the Iraqis as visitors, not refugees.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees estimated in a report released last month that more than 1.6 million Iraqis have left since March 2003, nearly 7 percent of the population. Jordanian security officials say more than 750,000 are in and around Amman, a city of 2.5 million. Syrian officials estimate that up to a million have gone to Damascus, a city of 12 million. An additional 150,000 have landed in Cairo. Every month, 100,000 more join them in Syria and Jordan, the report said.

Every night, hulking orange and white GMC Suburbans and sedans pull into the taxi garage in downtown Amman stuffed with Iraqis and their belongings, adding to growing fears that Iraq's sectarian tensions will spill over here.

As Iraq seems to disintegrate into warring factions of Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds, the risk that their dispute will be transferred here and increase local social problems is frightening the authorities. As a result, restrictions on Iraqis have been tightened in Syria and in Jordan, which has been increasing patrols seeking to evict those who have overstayed their visas.

Refugees here claim there is a growing sectarian dimension to the official crackdown. They say the authorities of this heavily Sunni country have been focused on deporting Iraqi Shiites, fearing that their militias are trying to organize here.

New York Times News Service

US screening of travelers may have violated congressional ban

WASHINGTON—OFFICIALS ARE debating whether the Homeland Security Department's computerized risk assessments of international travelers violate a specific ban that Congress imposed on the agency's spending for the past three years.

Members of Congress and privacy advocates questioned the legality of the Automated Targeting System, or ATS, risk assessments that have been assigned to millions of Americans and foreigners who entered or left the United States over the past four years.

"It clearly goes contrary to what we have in law," Democratic Representative Martin Sabo said in an interview Thursday. He said ATS is the kind of computerized risk assessment "we have been trying to prohibit."

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff told The Associated Press: "I don't think it (the prohibition) can be read as applying to this program. The statute doesn't bar the use of funds for the purpose of analyzing the risks for people entering the country."

Department spokesperson Russ Knocke said Congress had been informed many times since 2003 that ATS was being used to assess people.

The AP reported last week that ATS has been assessing millions of people since 2002.

At that time, a law prompted by the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, required air and cruise lines to give the Homeland Security Department advance data on all passengers and crew entering and leaving the country.

Jayson P. Ahern, assistant commissioner of customs and border protection, told the AP all that passenger data is analyzed by ATS. Data on rail and some land travelers also have been assessed.

ATS has operated with little public notice or understanding until a description was published last month in the Federal Register, a fine print compendium of federal rules.

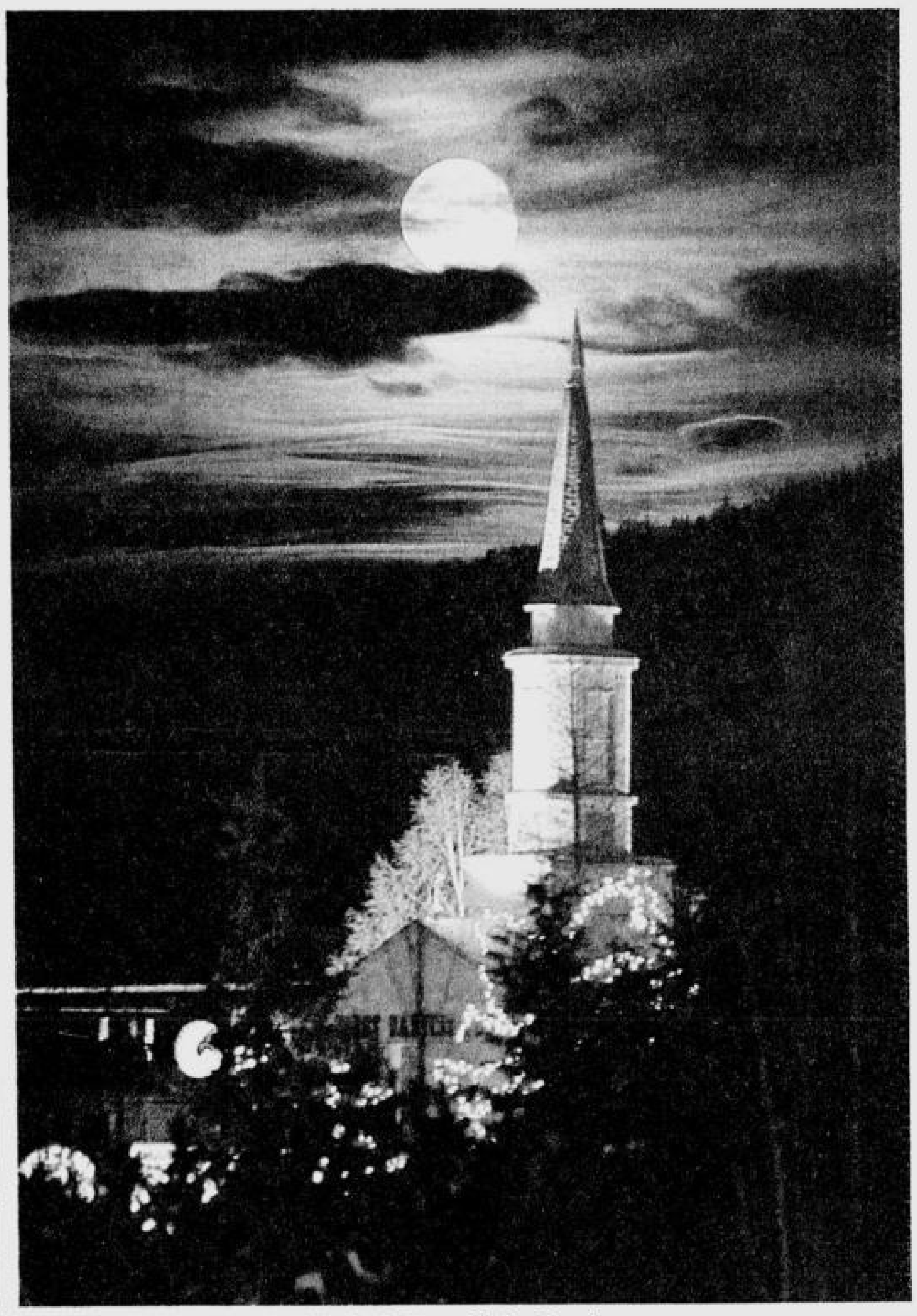
The Homeland Security Department's notice said people could not see their assessments or directly challenge them. It plans to keep the assessments for 40 years and share data with state, local and foreign governments for hiring, contracting, licensing and other decisions. In some instances, data could be shared with courts and private contractors.

Sabo, the top Democrat on the House Appropriations homeland security subcommittee, wrote into the agency's spending bills the ban on computerized passenger risk assessments. For the past three budget years, the legislation has said no funds from the appropriations bill could be used to develop or test computerized data-mining tools "assigning risk to passengers whose names are not on government watch lists."

"They keep going off on these wild scenarios on a regular basis," Sabo said. "They should concentrate on making their watch lists comprehensive and correctable."

Fellow Democrat Senator Patrick Leahy agreed. "There is growing concern in Congress that this program invites abuse, and that the administration is plowing ahead with it in apparent violation of the law," he said.

AP



THE MOON rises over a church in Eagle River, Alaska, Dec. 6.

AP

Historic US churches may leave Episcopal union over gay issue

FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA—THEY ARE two of the biggest churches in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, with roots stretching back to Colonial times.

One even had George Washington, the first US president, as a lay leader.

But next week, The Falls Church and Truro Church will vote whether to break their centuries-old ties to the national denomination as its fight over the Bible and sexuality intensifies.

Parishioners who support a split say they can no longer abide what they see as moral backsliding by the Episcopal national leadership, marked most starkly by the 2003 consecration of the first openly gay bishop, V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire.

The two Virginia churches hope to align themselves with Anglican Archbishop Peter Akinola of Nigeria, among the fiercest critics of Robinson's election. The archbishop is seeking to create a US alliance of disaffected parishes as a rival to the Episcopal Church.

The Episcopal Church is the US branch of the 77 million-member world Anglican Communion, which is struggling to stay unified despite deep divisions over whether gays should be ordained.

Most overseas Anglicans believe gay relationships violate Scripture, but conservatives are a minority within the 2.2 million-member Episcopal Church. Still, the protests by traditionalist Episcopalians—including those in Virginia—have had an impact. Last week, the Diocese of San Joaquin, in Fresno, California, took what its leaders called a first step toward a formal break with the national church.

The potential split by the two Virginia churches comes after three years of effort by local Bishop Peter James Lee to keep conservatives in the fold. Lee, who voted to confirm Robinson, has earned praise for his outreach even from those who opposed his vote.

AP

Maoist chief eyes Nepal presidency

NEW DELHI—MAOIST CHIEF PRACHANDA said he was willing to serve as president of a future Nepal republic and that only a "small, rich and corrupt clique" wanted to keep the monarchy, in comments published Friday.

"If the masses want to give me the responsibility and if my party chooses me as the best candidate (for president), then I will have to take it," said Prachanda, who waged a decade of armed struggle against the monarchy.

Prachanda's remarks, published in the Indian Express newspaper on Friday, came after the teacher-turned-revolutionary signed a peace deal with Nepal's ruling coalition last month, formally ending a civil war that claimed at least 12,500 lives.

"Except perhaps for a small, rich and corrupt clique close to the palace, I don't think the majority need a king even emotionally," Prachanda, whose nom-de-guerre means "the fierce one," told the daily in an interview.

Prachanda whose real name is Pushpa Kamal Dahal, said the monarchy lost public support after a massacre of most of the royal family by a drunk crown prince in 2001 catapulted King Gyanendra to the throne.

AFP

BE THERE FOR THE NEW BLOOD.

The long wait is over as the hottest local anthology returns: Youngblood³ is in the house, loaded with the best essays from 1999 to 2004 in the most concentrated Youngblood package yet. This is the Filipino youth at their most honest and most eloquent. Here are the essays that matter from the newspaper that started it all. Youngblood³ is the young Filipino unplugged.

YOUNGBLOOD

Edited by Jorge V. Aruta and Ruel S. De Vera

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Barte gains finals; Dandan stumbles/A28

SPORTS

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TIME DEPOT
Give Time this Christmas
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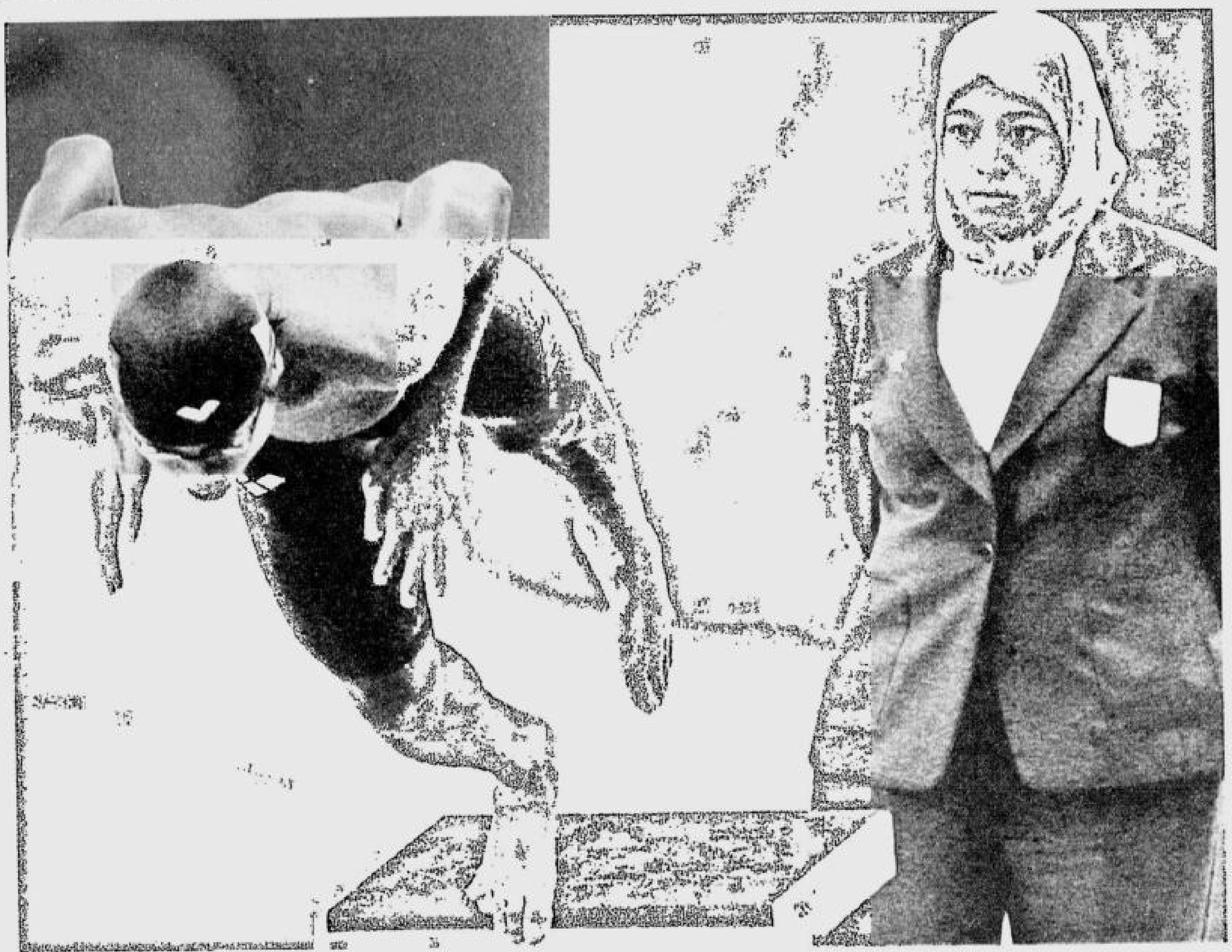

MIGUEL Molina swings to action as an official watches closely during the 200 meter breaststroke swimming competition at the Hamad Aquatic Centre in The Sports City, Doha, Qatar, Thursday.

LYN RILLON

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2006 ASIAN GAMES MEDAL TALLY AS OF DEC 08, 2006; 8:00 PM

Nation	G	S	B	Total	Nation	G	S	B	Total
China	90	50	20	160	Indonesia	1	1	4	6
Japan	26	30	38	94	Saudi Arabia	1	0	1	2
South Korea	19	25	45	89	Jordan	1	0	0	1
Kazakhstan	10	9	22	41	Qatar	0	3	4	7
North Korea	5	7	9	21	Myanmar	0	3	2	5
Thailand	4	9	12	25	Iraq	0	1	1	2
India	4	8	9	21	UAE	0	1	1	2
Taiwan	4	2	9	15	Krygyzstan	0	1	0	1
Hong Kong	2	5	4	11	Pakistan	0	1	0	1
Malaysia	2	4	2	8	Turkmenistan	0	1	0	1
Singapore	2	3	5	10	Philippines	0	0	2	2
Mongolia	2	3	2	7	Afghanistan	0	0	1	1
Uzbekistan	2	0	6	8	Bahrain	0	0	1	1
Kuwait	2	0	1	3	Bangladesh	0	0	1	1
Syria	2	0	0	2	Lebanon	0	0	1	1
Iran	1	5	2	8	Nepal	0	0	1	1
Vietnam	1	3	3	7					

15TH ASIAN GAMES
DOHA 2006

Archers get going; Basadre eyes semis

By Ted S. Melendres
Sports Editor

DOHA, QATAR—THE ARCHERS WILL be missing their strongest hope for a medal when they finally pull out their first arrows to vie in two events today at the Lusail Archery Range in the 15th Asian Games here.

Amaya Paz, a consistent top finisher in the Asian Grand Prix circuit, failed to make the Asiad team due to injury.

But the squad remains upbeat as the veteran Jasmine Figueroa, Rachelle Annn Cabral, Karen Grace Yasi and Katherine Santos compete in the individual classification round starting at 9 a.m. before Paul Martan dela Cruz, Marvin Cordero, Mark Javier and Christian Jubilla shoot their arrows early in the afternoon.

Lightweight Genebert Basadre tries to prove his round of 16 victory against a highly touted Pakistani was no fluke when he fights Turkmenistan's Serdar Bubayberdiyev in the

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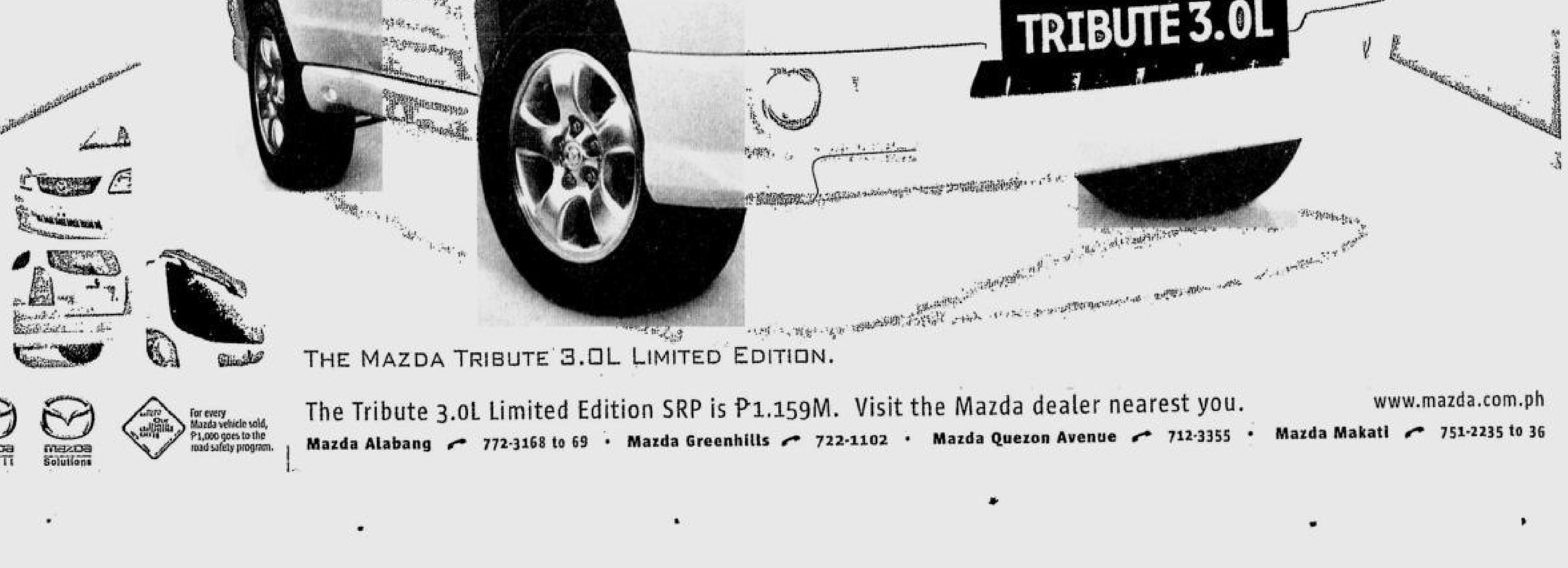
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Dry spell stumps Philippine sports officials

By Ted S. Melendres

DOHA, QATAR—EXCUSES, EXCUSES and more excuses.

The Philippines contingent's inability to land a gold medal six days into the 15th Asian Games begs answers. And no one can decipher the dry spell better than the head of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

"We are competing against present and former world champions," offered Jose "Peping" Cojuangco. "*Sa mga nasasagupa natin ngayon, naku, talaga,* Olympics *na ito, e* (The strength of the opposition is tremendous, this is like the Olympics)."

Cojuangco believes, however, that the medals will come in a short while in certain sports which he declined to name.

Richie Garcia, one of the four commissioners of the Philippine Sports Commission and a deputy chef de mission of the RP delegation here, said the medals would surely come later in the Games.

"*Parang noong* Busan Games, *huli na nang dumating yung mga* medals (It's just like our experience in the Busan Games, the medals came during the latter part of the competitions)," said Garcia, the pony-tailed top senior golfer.

"*Hindi naman tayo talaga malakas sa mga unang* events (We are really not that strong in the first few events)."

Garcia predicted that the medals would come from taekwondo, boxing and wushu, among others.

Boxing has sent a man—flyweight Violito Payla—into the medal round.

Jins Eunice Alora, Japoy Lizardo and Donald Geisler vied in the taekwondo competition which opened Thursday, and the wushu battles do not start until Dec. 11, four days before the games close.

Catcher Wilfredo Hidalgo Jr. blamed the lack of funding support and the indecisiveness of certain local sports officials for the RP team's humiliating last-place finish in baseball.

"*Hindi nakatulong sa amin 'yung hindi namin malaman sa mga opisyal kung makakalaro nga ba kami sa Asian Games o hindi* (It didn't help us when officials could not make up their minds whether to allow us play in the Asian Games or not)," rued Hidalgo.

Chef de mission and PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez has stuck to his forecast that the RP contingent will bring home five gold medals from the 45-nation Games.

"I'm sticking to my forecast, we can win five gold medals," Ramirez told the INQUIRER at the Athletes Village. "The battles have not ended."

RP DAILY SKED—Dec. 9

Archery—*9 a.m.*—Women's individual classification round (Jasmin Figueroa, Rachelle Anne Cabral, Karen Grace Yasi, Katherine Santos); *1:30 p.m.*—Men's individual (Paul Martan dela Cruz, Mark Javier, Marvin Cordero, Christian Cubilla)

Athletics—*3 p.m.* Men's long jump final (Henry Dagmil, Joebert Delicano)

Bowling—*9 a.m.*—Men's Masters (first block); *12:30 p.m.*—Women's Masters (first block)

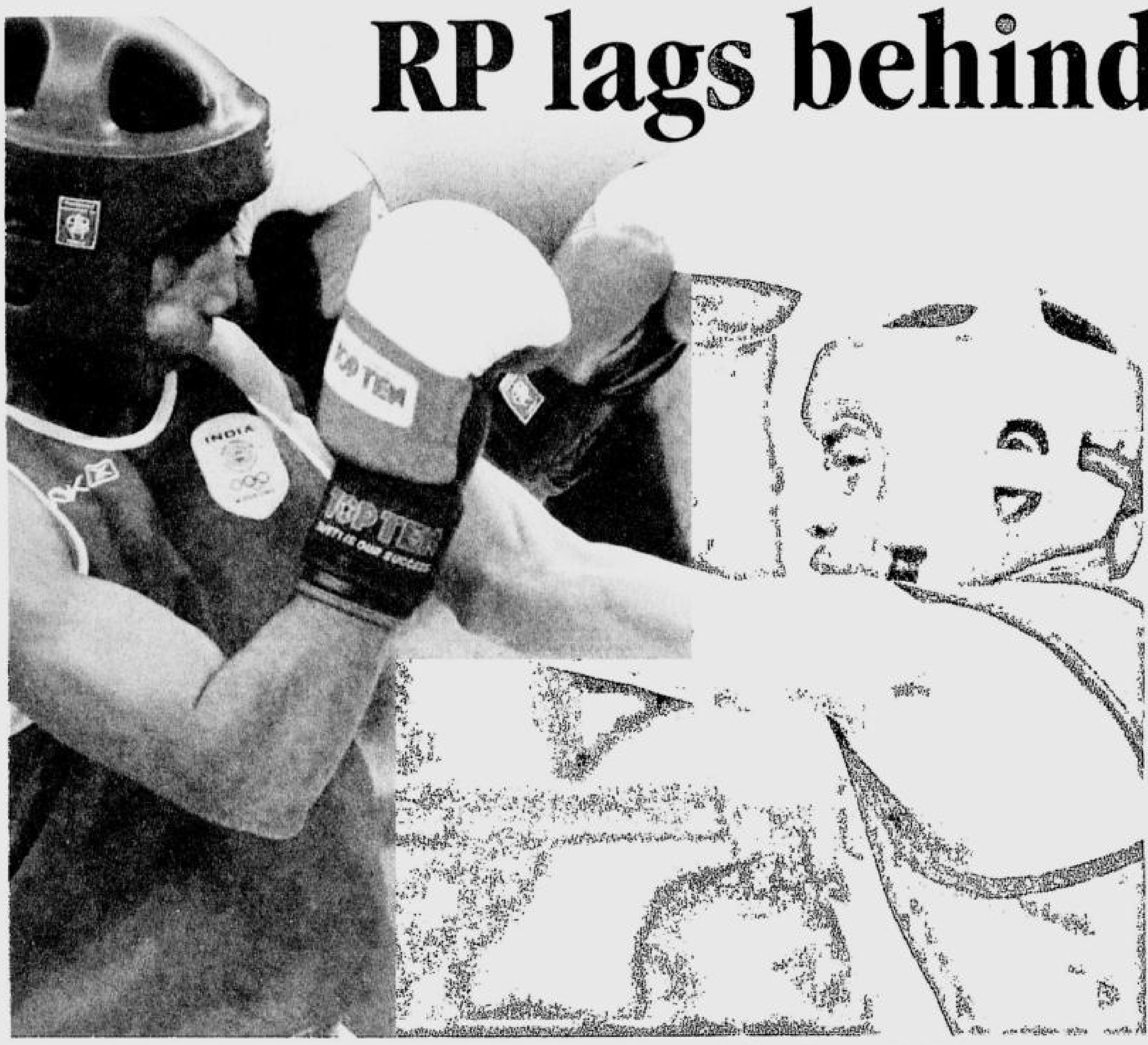
Boxing—*2 p.m.*—Genebert Basadre vs. Serdar Hubayberdiyer (Turkmenistan)

Cue Sports—*1 p.m.*—Women's 9-ball singles (Rubilen Amit)

Taekwondo—*2 p.m.*—Men's 62 kg. (Tshomlee Go); Women's 72 kgs. (Criselda Roxas)

Tennis—Men's singles—Cecil Mamiit vs. Rajeev Rajapakse (Sri Lanka); Eric Taino vs. Edgar Wong (Macau)

RP lags behind SEAG foes



VIOLITO Payla (right) lands a punch to the face of Indian Jitender Kumar in their quarterfinal bout Thursday night. Payla won. LYN RILLON

By Ted S. Melendres

DOHA, QATAR—THE PHILIPPINES, LAST YEAR'S RUNAWAY Southeast Asian Games overall champion, is lagging behind its neighbors in the medal tally of the 15th Asian Games here and the gap is expected to widen.

Seven days into the 15-day, 45-nation competition, the Filipinos are hard-pressed to surpass the medal harvest of the third-best Southeast Asian contingent here, let alone match their harvest of three gold, seven silver and 16 bronze medals in the 2002 Games in Busan, South Korea.

The embattled RP bidders have won just two bronze medals, courtesy of Eunice Alora and Veronica Domingo in taekwondo, a paltry picking compared to the gains made thus far by the Thais, the Malaysians and the Singaporeans.

Thailand, the well-beaten runner-up in the Manila SEA Games, shows the way for the region with a 4-9-12 gold-silver-bronze haul-good for sixth place in the Asiad tally topped since the first day by world powers China (90-50-20) and Japan (26-30-38).

Malaysia, fifth in the SEA Games, has nailed two golds so far to go with four silvers and two bronzes. It stood in 10th place, a rung in front of Singapore which has a 2-4-2 tally.

China training

Benefiting from the China training of its finest athletes, rising SEA Games nation Vietnam is currently fourth with one gold, three silver and three bronze medals for 17th place, just a notch in front at former regional power Indonesia which now has 1-1-4.

With its medal chances in tenpin bowling going down the drain, the Philippines is in the bottom half of the standings and holds the torch for Asiad minnows Afghanistan, Nepal, Lebanon, Bahrain and Bangladesh.

Victories in the doubles of men's English billiards, the men's team event in sepak takraw, the women's 50-meter rifle prone team competition and the 63-kilogram class in women's weightlifting through Pawina Thongsuk have powered the Thais to the upper fifth of the medal standings.

Thongsuk set a new world record of 142 kg in the clean and jerk and a new Asian mark of 110 kg in the snatch on the way to her gold, Thailand's most sparkling gem in the Games. The physical education graduate from Bangkok relegated a former world record holder from China to the silver.

The Thais, perennial Asiad contender in shooting, just missed the gold in the women's events in the 50m rifle prone and the double trap. Only last night, two more golds got away when Somsang Vasavat lost in the finals of taekwondo's 54 kg class and Chonnapas Premwaew yielded in a close encounter in the women's 63 kg.

Bowling

Two golds in tenpin bowling courtesy of Esther Cheah Mei Lan,in the women's singles and the men's trios of Heng Boon Hian, Aaron Kong Eng Chuan and Daniel Lim Tow Chuang have lifted Malaysia to its strongest start in eight Asiads, according to team officials.

The Malaysians also picked up silvers in tenpin bowling's women's trios, the dressage team in equestrian the men's vault in artistic gymnastics courtesy of Southeast Asia's finest all-around gymnast Ng Shu Wai and the men's team in sepak takraw.

Singapore was also not to be denied of the chance to shine. A stunning upset victory in the women's 50m butterfly in swimming by Tao Li, said to be originally from China, and the women's doubles pair of Michelle Kwang Tien Mei and Valerie Teo Hui Ying have been the brightest performances thus far by the Lion City athletes.

Vietnam struck in sepak takraw, a sport indigenous to the Thais and Malaysians, with the come-from-behind triumph of its women's squad against Thailand. Indonesia landed its first gold with the victory of Ryan Leonard Lalisang in the men's singles of tenpin bowling.

Archers get going

From page A25

busy quarterfinal round in boxing.

A victory in the 2 p.m. contest will assure the 20-year-old Basadre of at least a bronze medal and move him into the semifinals in the company of flyweight Violito Payla.

15TH ASIAN GAMES
DOHA 2006

The tennis squad also resumes action at the Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex with world-ranked Fil-American Cecil Mamiit battling Sri Lanka's Rajeev Rajapakse and Eric Taino colliding with Macau's Edgar Wong in the first round of the men's singles competition.

Except for a doubles victory in the team competition in partnership with Taino, Mamiit has not lived up to his billing as the fifth-ranked singles player here. But RP coaches expect him to pull through against the lowly rated Rajapakse.

Taino, one-of-two in team singles, is also tipped to prevail against the Macanese, a first-timer in the Asiad who has not landed in the ranking of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), according to official Doha Games records.

Henry Dagmil and Joebert Delicano settled for second place in their respective groups and easily qualified for the medal battles of the men's long jump starting in mid-afternoon at the impressively refurbished Khalifa Stadium in Sports City here.

Dagmil, who celebrated his 25th birthday on Thursday, leapt to a distance of 7.78 meters and qualified in Group B behind Ahmed Faez Bin Marzouq of Saudi Arabia (7.94), while Delicano jumped 7.66 in finishing next to another Saudi, Hussain Taher Al Saba (7.67).

Only the best six jumpers from each group advanced to today's finals.

The bowlers, who have been firing blanks in the sleek lanes of the Qatar Bowling Center, go through the first blocks of the men's and women's masters event hoping to finally end their medal drought. Filipino teams have missed medals of any color in the singles, doubles, trios and teams of five.

Two more sets of medals each will be awarded to the top finishers in the men's and women's masters and the all events, the aggregate scores of each player in the four events disputed so far.

Rubilen Amit competes in the women's 9-ball singles in billiards as will Busan Asiad bronze medallist Tshomlee Go in the men's 62-kilogram class and Maria Criselda Roxas in the 72 kg division in taekwondo.

Go battles Al Muradi Badralden of Bahrain while Roxas, a newcomer in the Asiad, goes up against Abral Al Fahad of Saudi Arabia.

Lady jins cop 2 bronzes

By Ted S. Melendres

DOHA, QATAR—A PROMISED GOLDEN BID that never was and a spirited rally that time cut short left the Philippines with two bronze medals in the taekwondo competitions of the 15th Asian Games here Thursday night.

After superior foes stopped lightweight Donald Geisler and then finweight John Paul Lizardo from reaching the medal rounds, Kathleen Eunice Alora and Veronica Domingo nailed the medals that finally put the RP contingent in the medal tally.

Between Alora and Domingo, though, the former fought with a lot more poise and determination before bowing out of the semifinals at the Qatar Sports Club.

Alora, the lithe, 19-year-old from Biñan, Laguna, lost to China's Wu Jingyu, 2-3, but not before surging back from 0-3 down with 35 seconds left in the fight.

Giving everything she had to pull even, Alora backed up the Chinese to the edge of the mat and kicked her last as time expired.

"She (Wu) got ahead early but I knew I still had something in me to come back," said Alora, who advanced to the medal round of the 47-kilogram class with a nail-biting 1-0 win over Indonesia's Juana Wangsa Putri. "It was tough coming back and I had only 10 seconds to make it 3-3."

But the veteran Domingo—who said she was actually aiming for the gold after settling for the bronze in the 2002 Busan Asiad—looked lost against Thailand's Chonnapas Premwaew and was never really in the fight from the first buzzer.

Fresh off her stunning upset of the favored Jin Chae-rin of South Korea, the more active Chonnapas scored five straight points in the second round, four of them on 2-pointer axe kicks, against Domingo on the way to an abbreviated 7-0 victory in their 63 kg match.

"I'm happy with the bronze medal," Domingo later said. "I really wanted to win the gold, though."

Domingo set up the fight with Chonnapas after drawing a bye in the round of 16 and whipping Lebanon's Carina Hammoud, 5-1, in the quarterfinals.

Chonnapa's eventually settled for the silver after getting nipped, 1-0, by Chinese Taipei's Su Li-wen in the finals, while Wu, Alora's tormentor, went on to claim the gold over Chinese Taipei's Yang Shu-chun, 2-1.

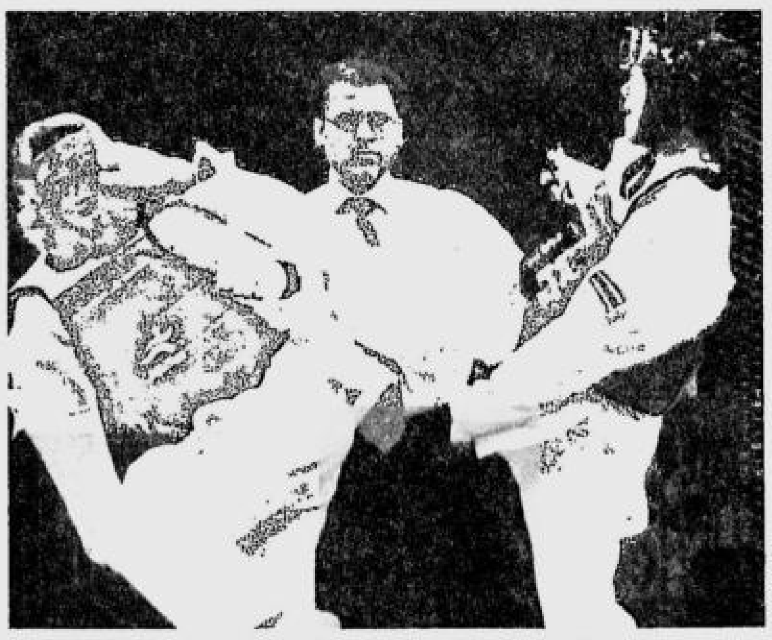
Geisler, the Athens Olympian and former world championship silver medalist, bowed to a vastly superior Patiwat Thongsalap of Thailand, 3-6, in the round of eight, while Lizardo bowed to Bahrain's Al-Rahim Al-Hameed Ebrahim, 1-3, earlier in the day.

"My preparation was good, but somehow I did not follow the game plan against the Bahraini," said Lizardo.

Head coach Stephen Fernandez said he was happy with the performances of the four Filipinos.

"Generally, it was a good start for us because all our fighters gave their best," he said. "Eunice (Alora) lost to a better opponent. *Talagang talo.*"

On Geisler's defeat, Fernandez said there were points which the judges didn't see. "But we're not complaining," he qualified.



LYN RILLON

VERONICA Domingo (left) takes a hit from Thailand's Chon Premwaew.

Diay's Asiad nemesis now a top coach

By Ted S. Melendres

DOHA QATAR—SHE WAS THE THORN on Lydia de Vega's side, but one that wouldn't hurt while the Filipina was still Asia's fastest woman.

PT Usha, perhaps India's finest track and field athlete for two decades, is back in the Doha edition of the Asian Games still fit and confident.

The five-time Asian athlete of the year and the continent's former record holder in the 100 meters, 200m, 400m and 800m is now coach to a 17-year-old girl by the name of Tintu Lukka, who is part of India's 46-strong athletics contingent here and the brightest product of the PT Usha School of Athletics in Kerala state.

Lukka is competing in the 400 and 800 meters, two events closest to Usha's heart.

"The Asian Games brings back a lot of memories," said the 41-year-old Usha, the winner of 102 gold medals in a glittering international career. "It's where many ups and down defined my career as an athlete."

With 102 gold medals from international meets under her belt, Usha's string of victories in five Asiads, including four gold medals in the 1986 Seoul edition, were all icing on the cake.

The low points, though, invariably includes her battle with arch rival De Vega, the tall, comely lass from Meycauayan, Bulacan, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium one balmy December afternoon in 1982, when New Delhi hosted the quadrennial Games.

With the hopes of a nation resting on her shoulders, Payyoli Tevaraparampil Usha was under tremendous pressure to surpass herself.

Although she reacted faster than De Vega when the starter's gun boomed, the Filipina rallied to win the century dash and crown herself Asia's Queen of Sprints. Usha would later miss the 200m gold as well, despite the absence of De Vega who opted out of the race due to a hurting leg muscle.

Usha came back the next year to pull off a handsome sweep of the 100m, 200m, 400m, 400m hurdles and 4x400m relay in the Jakarta Asian championships before De Vega again foiled her in the 1986 Asiad in Seoul.

Usha, still on a high after a scintillating stint in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, came away with four gold medals but lost in the centerpiece 100m race anew to the Filipina.

After her retirement in 2000, Usha started a school of athletics to impart training to 10-12 girl recruits from all over India. The "Indian gazelle" who missed the LA Olympics' 400m bronze medal by one-hundredths of a second is married and has a son.

GMA boosts cash rewards for medalists

By June Navarro

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO APPROVED Thursday night additional cash incentives for Filipino medalists in the ongoing Asian Games in Doha, Qatar.

Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, the first vice president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, announced the extra cash doleouts for the top performers in the quadrennial meet after meeting with the President the other night.

Puentevella said gold, silver and bronze medalists will now receive P500,000, P300,000 and P200,000, respectively.

The monetary rewards are on top of those already provided under Republic Act 9064 approved in 2001.

Known as the Sports Incentives Act, RA 9064 rewards P1 million for a gold, P.5 million for silver and P100,000 for bronze from the funds of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation.

Puentevella, said the President has already advised Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino to carry out the directive upon the return of the athletes.

"I pity the athletes. Compared to their Asian rivals, our athletes look emaciated as they hardly receive proper training and nutrition," said Puentevella, also the president of the country's weightlifting association.

Osmeña-Cebu derails Spring

OSMEÑA-CEBU THWARTED SPRING-Tagaytay, 64-58, Thursday night at the start of the quarterfinal playoffs in the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament at the Emilio Aguinaldo College gym.

Nino Marquez and Billy Moody combined for 40 points to give the Cebuanos the victory in a tightly fought match that saw six deadlocks and seven lead changes.

With the win, former Sen. John Osmeña's cagers forced a winner-take-all match for the right to play the winner between Valencia Golden Harvest and North Cotabato Braves in the semifinals.

The Cebuanos started strong and engaged the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and league EVP and Mayor Bambol Tolentino in the first half before holding sway in the last two quarters.

Moody, Marquez and Marlon Legaspi delivered in the final canto to pad a 50-46 edge to 60-49 going into the last two minutes.

"It's not yet over. We know Spring can bounce back from the loss and beat us. We have to work extra hard in the next game," said Osmeña-Cebu coach Bing Victoria. "We've beaten them twice already, but it does not matter since Spring carried a twice-to-bet advantage into the playoffs."

SPORTSWATCH

RPN 9 airs NBA games live

BASKETBALL GETS EVEN HOTTER AS RPN 9 brings some of the most anticipated NBA games on free TV twice a week, no replays all season long. NBA regular season games on RPN are shown live every Saturday and Sunday at 11:30 a.m. and are different from the ones shown on basketball TV. Today's featured game is between host Seattle Supersonics and New Orleans Hornets where the sweet-shooting Ray Allen meets last year's Rookie of the Year Chris Paul.

La Salle remains on top

LA SALLE GREENHILLS A OUTPLAYED UST, 15-0, for its third straight win and stayed on top in the under-17 division of the BOFA Youth Tournament at the La Salle Zobel pitch in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. La Salle Lipa, on the toher hand, whipped Angelicum, 15-0, to post its second win in three outings. LSGH B finally won its first match in three games with an 11-0 rout of La Salle Antipolo in the age-group event. Play resumes on Sunday with three games to be held at the Xavier lower field pitting DLSZ against La Salle Lipa at 11 a.m., Angelicum against LS Greenhills at 1 p.m. and La Salle Antipolo at 3 p.m.

LPC cockfest stakes P.5M

NO LESS THAN P500,000 IN GUARANTEED prize will be disputed today in Las Pinas Coliseum's special cockfest, dubbed as "Pamaskong Labanan Fastest Win One-Cock Timbangan." Hosts Jessie Banas and E. Almaz pegged the entry fee at P2,200. The fastest win champion, to be chosen after every ten fights, will get P10,000. Each winner gets P2,000 as bonus. For the overall fastest win champion, P50,000; second, P30,000; third, P20,000 and slowest champion, P10,000. According to coliseum manager Alex Tobias, the event will be until midnight due to the big number of entries. Meanwhile, the LPC management offers P1,000 to the first 20 winners during hackfights from Monday to Sunday.

19 bets lead Roligon derby

ROUND TWO OF ROLIGON MEGA COCKPIT'S Apordabol Incredibol 5-cock derby blasts off at 5 p.m. today with more than 80 fights. Nineteen cockers took the early lead after posting two wins each on Thursday's opening round, among them Alex Wolcott, Toti Pangalan, Rey Calbe, A. T. Carlos, Rep. Danny Lagbas, Dado Andal, Enjie Nas, Juan Jordana, Tony Hapo and Silver B entry. The third round elimination gets on underway on Dec. 11 and the finals on Dec. 13. The total guaranteed prize amounts to P2 million, said host Rolly Ligon. As bonus, the fastest win champion will drive home a brand new Toyota Avanza 1.5. For details, call 851-2275; 833-1638 and 852-9812.

JOSEPH LABAJO of Nike Fil team

Young guns power Nike's sweep drive

BAGUIO CITY—NIKE PACSPORTS' young guns picked up seven points in the final four holes over Southwoods' ex-Philippine team mainstays yesterday to key the team's Fil division breakaway going into the final 18 holes of the 57th Fil-Am Invitational at the Country Club here.

Jonel Ababa and Mark Fernando gained seven points over Tonlits Asistio and Erwin Vinluan down the stretch as Nike padded an 11-point overnight lead to 18 after anchoring a 138-point third round.

The reed-thin Ababa, winner of the first National Caddies' Open two years ago, birdied three of the final four holes to submit a level 61 worth 36 points after trailing Asistio by two points going to the 15th tee.

Fernando, the ex-caddy from Zamboanga who helped Canlubang pocket the PAL Interclub title earlier in the year, padded a two-up advantage over Vinluan with birdies on Nos. 6 and 8—their 15th and 17th holes—to finish with a 62 worth 35 points.

Jun Bernis matched Fernando's 35 and Joseph Labajo was good for 32 points after a 65 as Nike's Fil team totalled 433. Boyet Saragoza, the former Canlubang Open champion, did not count with a 31.

"Barring any tragedies, I think we have this one in the bag also," Tommy Manotoc, the "three-peat"-seeking Nike's non-playing skipper, told the Inquirer in a telephone call. "I can't say enough of these youngsters who have played well above expectations and are humbling foes with great experience and talent."

Nike's Am team, which had the title in the bag after two rounds, pulled farther away over at the longer but easier John Hay layout, pooling 143 for a 408 total and a 43-point bubble over Southwoods.

Mario Labajo and Dave Hernandez exploded with a pair of two-under-par 67s for 38s to lead Nike Am's bid also for a third consecutive crown. Rufino Bayron contributed 37 and Paul Echavez added 30.

Anthony Fernando's 35 points paced Southwoods, which would most likely finish second in the Fil division for the third straight year. Asistio and Miko Alejandro each turned in 33s and Vinluan was ice cold with 30 to make up the Carmona-based squad's 131 points for 415.

"I really don't know what the problem is," said Southwoods skipper Thirdy Escano, who had a heart-to-heart talk with the whole team the night before.

Ramontito Garcia fired a 34 for Southwoods' Am squad, which faltered with 125 and 267 points. He was backed by Chucho Martinez (31), Jun Jun Plana (31) and Gino Bunyi (29).

150 classic, modern cars on display today

CARS OF ALL MAKE—FROM THE stylishly classic to the sleekly modern—will be on display when a "360-degree exhibition" of over 150 automobiles opens today in the initial yuletide staging of the Heat Wave in December at the SM Mall of Asia North Open Parking.

Several car clubs are represented during this grand event, while auto collectors and enthusiasts share the fond memories of the classic cars of the past.

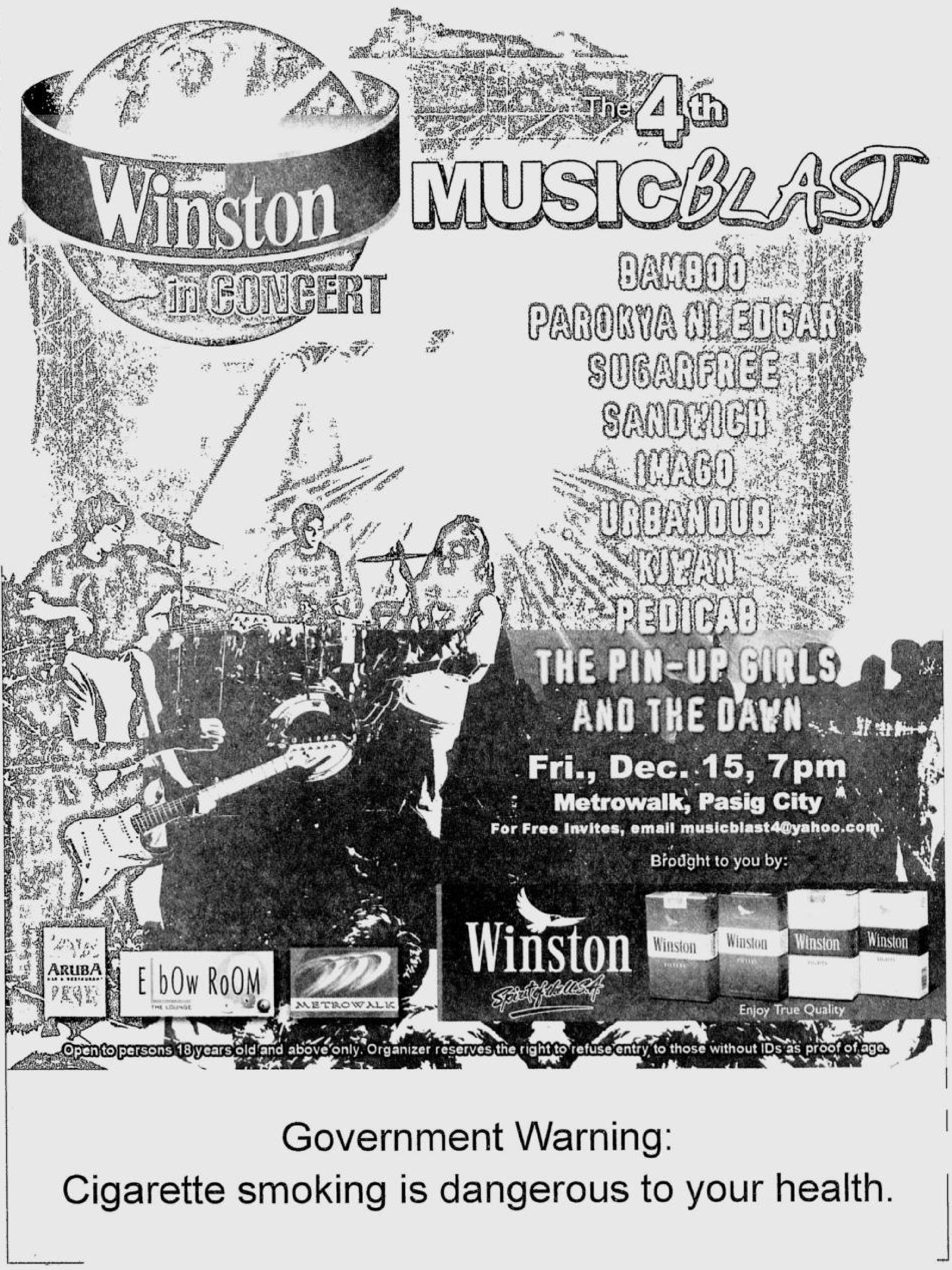
Car enthusiasts will not only have the chance to see the country's most dazzling collection of cars but also the best customized street machines, muscle cars, stock cars and others.

There will also be a block screening (for participants) at the IMAX Theater of NASCAR 3D.

Participants will also vie for the Best in Show, Best in Paint, Best Interior, Best Engine Display, Best Sound Set-up, and other categories that will be preceded by a fashion show as well as performances from the country's hottest bands and raffle draws.

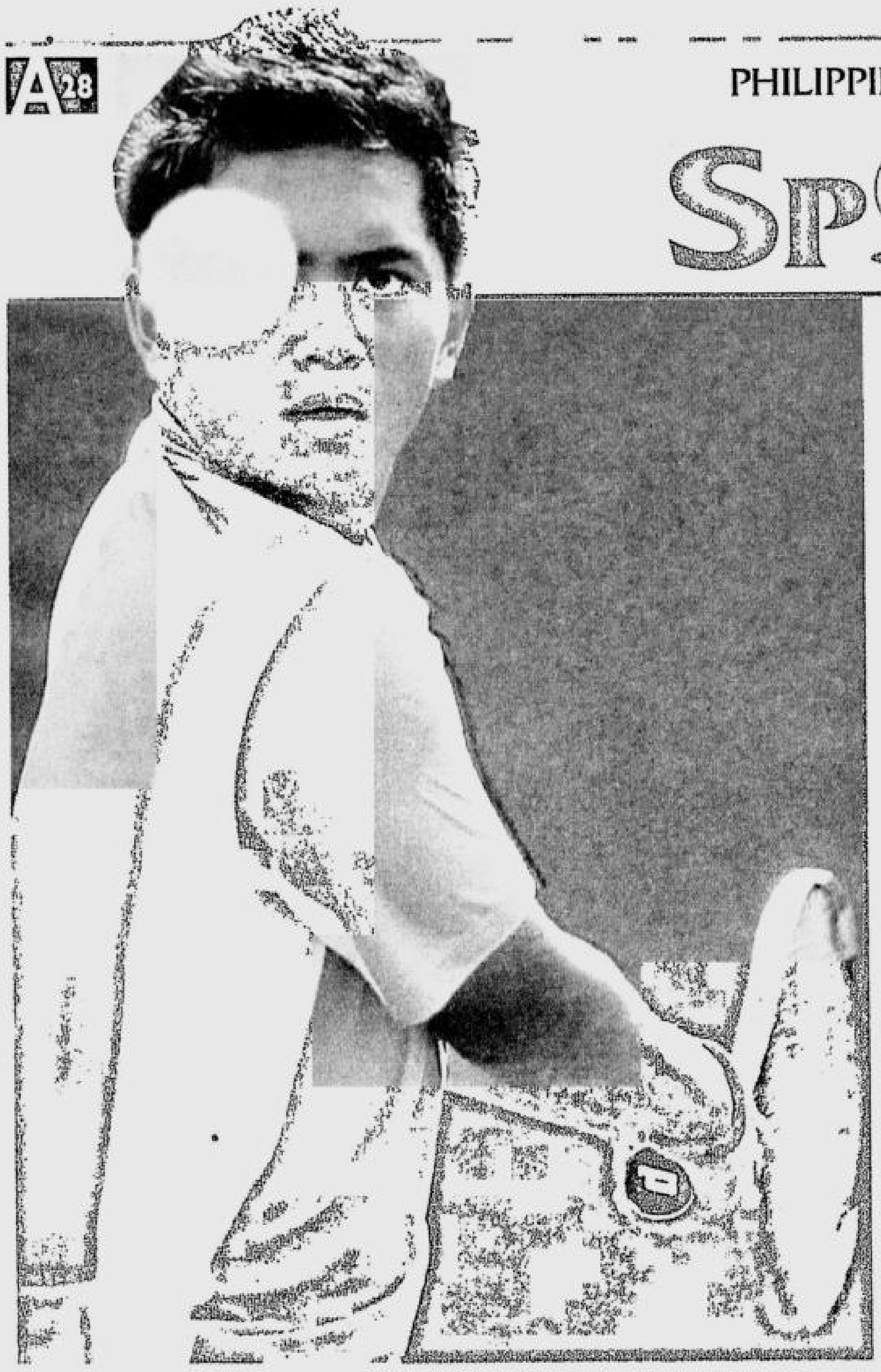
Organized by VGCom, in cooperation with Wave 89.1, the event is also presented by X1R Performance Lubricants, Big Bert's Professional Detailers, PLDT My DSL, RRJ, Meguiar's, IcedOutEmz/Diamond Nutz, Ritrama-Tgraf Team Graphics, Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP), TopGear, and Studio 23.

For details, call 6872253, 6872015, or 6384096 or 0906-4407049 and 0915-3162641.



Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

SPORTS



RALPH Barte eyes the ball against Yuki Matsuo yesterday. ERIK ARAZAS

Barte gains finals; Dandan stumbles

By Marc Anthony Reyes

RALPH KEVIN BARTE YESTERDAY stood up from where Kyle Joshu Dandan fell, and is now on the threshold of duplicating what his fallen compatriot proudly achieved last week.

The unheralded and unseeded Barte continued his winning spree over rated rivals, this time outlasting Japanese fourth seed Yuki Matsuo, 5-7, 6-4, 7-5, to reach the boys' singles finals of the Phinma-ITF juniors tennis championships week 2 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

His triumph made up for the heartbreaking loss by last week's champion Dandan, who fell to Japanese Toshiya Suzuki, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3, in the other semifinals.

Barte and Suzuki dispute the crown today at 9 a.m.

The 17-year-old Suzuki shook up Dandan's confidence with a shocking second set win.

"Suzuki played a very solid game and he's more confident with himself. He believed that he can beat Dandan and he did," said the English-speaking Takashi Zetsu, Suzuki's traveling coach. "It didn't bother him at all playing against the top seed. He just played his best out there and tried to think positive."

Incidentally, that was Barte's tack all week long as the Filipino sustained his upset run that included an earlier win over second seed Korean Won Choi-Jae.

"I try to set aside the seedings when I get into the court, I guess that helped a lot in my game. I'm very much motivated to go all the way and win this tournament," said Barte, who is on his first ever finals appearance here.

Suzuki, who competed in Brunei, Thailand, Korea and New Zealand, is ranked 978th in the world among juniors and is a graduate of the Tennis Lab Academy in Kobe City.

In the girls' singles, second seed and last week's runner-up Russian Elizaveta Titova frustrated No. 8 Jessica Agra, 6-0, 6-2, to reach the finals against unseeded Korean Kim Kun-hee, who scored a 6-3, 6-2 semifinal victory over Japanese Misa Eguchi.

Charities lift Jaguars past Sea Horses

STEADY FREE THROW SHOOTING in the stretch lifted the PSBA Jaguars to an 88-84 decision of PATTS College yesterday in the 14th National Capital Region Athletic Association men's basketball tournament.

Lester Mendoza, Robert Manguerra and TJ Zayas provided the charities as the Jaguars won for just the second time in seven games.

Mendoza's charities came after a split by James Abugan enabled the Sea Horses to threaten at 82-83.

More freebies from Manguerra and Zayas kept the Jaguars out of trouble in the last 21 seconds when PATTS got into foul trouble.

RK Cui showed the way for the Patts Sea Horses with 36 points.

Musong R. Castillo

Fespic Games: RP athletes deliver

By Nikko Dizon

IN A SHINING MOMENT, FILIPINO ATHletes showed that their physical disabilities would not cripple them in their quest to bring pride to their country.

The Philippines bagged two gold medals, three silvers, and seven bronze at the recent 9th Far East and South Pacific (Fespic) Games held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Charge d'Affaires Antonio Morales said in a report to the Foreign Affairs home office in Manila.

Morales said the gold medals were won by swimmer Daniel Damaso in the visually impaired 400-meter freestyle/S12 swimming event and Juanito Mingarine in the pentathlon P54-P58 wheelchair event.

Those who won the silver medals were Achelle Guion for powerlifting (up to 40kg Open); Alson Tumbagahan for the sailing single/access liberty event; and Josephine Medina for the table tennis single/class 6-8 event.

The Philippines also took bronze medals in the following athletics events:

Paz Enano—100 m wheelchair track T54; Ruth Maragrag—400 m wheelchair track T53; Isidro Vildosola—5000 m ambulant T46; Evaristo Carbonel—discus F11; Joel Balatucan—discus F54; and javelin F54; Jeanette Acebeda—shot put F12 .

Prior to leaving for Kuala Lumpur on Nov. 22, the Philippine team's coaches and athletes acknowledged that the Games have been dominated by China and Japan.

But they were determined to bring honor to the Philippines.

"Our motivation comes from within. We are representing our country and we want to make the Filipinos proud. At the same time, we also want to boost our self-esteem," Gerry Gonzalo, who is visually impaired, told the INQUIRER in a pre-departure interview at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naïa).

"The performance of the Philippine team was impressive" considering the very lean composition of the team, comprising only 40 athletes compared with over 400 of the other national teams," Morales said in a DFA statement released last Thursday.

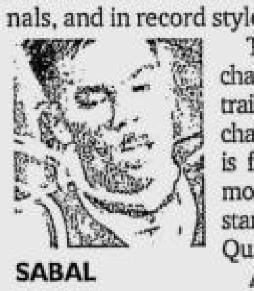
The quadrennial Fespic is the biggest multisports and multidisability event for athletes with disabilities in Asia and Oceania. About 2,357 athletes from 47 countries participated this year.

TRIATHLETE: A participant in the White Rock Triathlon gets out of the water after completing the 2 kilometer swim event. Participants of the event, which also includes the 90-km bike and the 21-km run, held at the White Rock Beach Resort in Subic, Zambales, was given Rush Fitness Water to refresh and recharge.

Sabal eyes Milo run RP record

By Jasmine W. Payo

BRIMMING WITH CONFIDENCE, CRESenciano Sabal is seeking a repeat in the 42-kilometer National Milo Marathon finals, and in record style at that.



SABAL

The defending champion, who is training with former champ Rey Antoque, is favored to rule tomorrow's race that starts and ends at the Quirino Grandstand.

And the 28-year-old would like to spike a second straight conquest by shattering the Philippine mark of 2:18.44 set by Eduardo Buenavista in the 2004 Oita Marathon in Japan.

Last year, Sabal clocked 2:21:33 to obliterate the 2:22:52 record of Buenavista, who will not be around this year after being picked to wear the RP colors in the ongoing 15th Asian Games in Doha, Qatar.

"I think with my condition right now, I can make it at 2:20," said Sabal in Filipino.

Sabal will be challenged by two-time champion and former national athlete Allan Ballester and back-to-back Yakult 10-Miler titlist Bernardo Desamito.

Darkhorse bets include last year's runner-up Juniel Languido, national middle-distance runner Julius Sermona, Mamerto Corpuz, Rodolfo Tacadino and Reynaldo delos Reyes.

A handsome trophy plus P75,000 in prize money await the men's and women's champions.

Davao City native Jho-An Banayag will try to defend her title in the women's race.

Other favored contenders include 2004 champion Estella Mamac-Diaz and promising long-distance runner Ailene Tolentino.

Mamac-Diaz, who settled for a runner-up finish last year, ruled the season-opening race in Kidapawan City on Jan. 29.

Tolentino of Cagayan de Oro City topped the Metro Manila leg last July.

Malalad looking beyond bronze medal this time

By Jasmine W. Payo

KARATE'S POSTER GIRL IS FAR FROM WORried.

Despite a recent knee injury, Gretchen Malalad aims to surpass her previous finish when she leaves for the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar today.

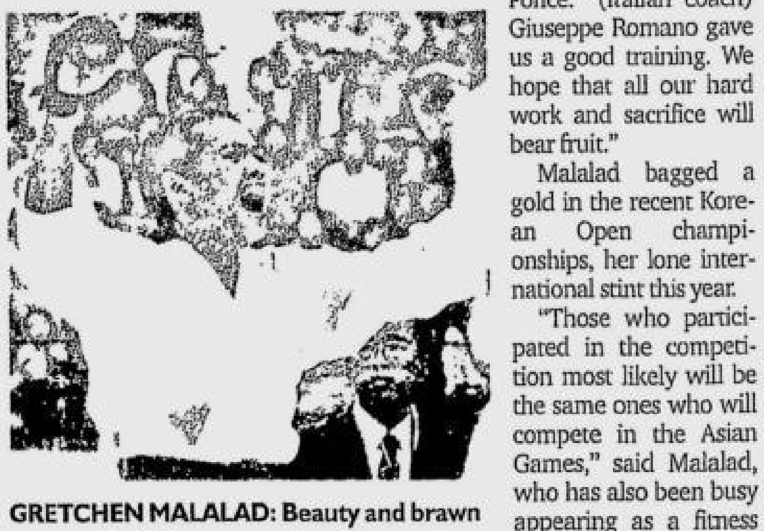
"Once you dream of something, if you really want to achieve it, you'll work very hard for it," Malalad said in Filipino.

Malalad, a bronze medalist in the 2002 edition in Busan, will compete in the -60kg individual kumite during the karate competition on Dec. 12-13.

National karate president Ed Ponce remains confident of the chances of his top ward.

"Gretchen is a fighter," he said. "I know she will do good. I saw her in practice, her kicks are better. I think she will make an impact in this Asian Games."

The 26-year-old Malalad, a three-time Southeast Asian Games gold medalist, sustained a knee injury last month.



GRETCHEN MALALAD: Beauty and brawn

Malalad's teammates will be planing off from Naples, Italy, where the national karate team had been training since September.

SEA Games gold medal winner Marna Pabillore and Mae Soriano are also among the favored bets.

"Everyone has a chance to win a medal," said Ponce. "(Italian coach) Giuseppe Romano gave us a good training. We hope that all our hard work and sacrifice will bear fruit."

Malalad bagged a gold in the recent Korean Open championships, her lone international stint this year.

"Those who participated in the competition most likely will be the same ones who will compete in the Asian Games," said Malalad, who has also been busy appearing as a fitness trainer in a reality talent show on local television.

Nelson Pacalso, Junel Perenia, Bong Toribio and kata specialist Noel Espinosa will also see action for the national karate team, the last batch of Filipino athletes flying to Doha.

Allanic, Janiola vie for RP titles tonight

CEBU'S ROBERT ALLANIC AND Wyndel Janiola fight for national crown against reigning RP boxing champions in Binangonan, Rizal, tonight.

Allanic (16-1) of the ALA Stable will challenge RP superfly champion Eden Sonsona in the 12-round mainer.

It will be Allanic's biggest fight to date, while Sonsona (10-1, 2 KOs) will be defending his crown for the second time since wresting it from Eric Barcelona earlier this year.

With their skills and power, Allanic versus Sonsona promises to be an explosive battle.

The co-feature pits the talented Janiola of the Wakee Salud Gym against RP light-flyweight champion Sonny Boy Jaro in another 12-round tiff.

Janiola (18-4, 9 KOs) will try to reclaim the same title he had relinquished when he campaigned for international belts in 2003.

Jaro (24-5-4, 15 KOs) will be defending his national belt for the fourth time. He barely retained it following a draw against the dangerous Along Denoy on Sept. 17.

Salven L.Lagumbay

Palos Verdes ties Alta Vista in Sta. Lucia Tour

Standings after Summit leg: 98 Alta Vista, 98 Rancho Palos Verdes, 92 Eagle Ridge, 62 Lakewood, 45 Summit Point, 45 Royale Tagaytay, 28 Orchard, 12 Caliraya Springs

RANCHO PALOS VERDES OF DAVAO caught up with Cebu's Alta Vista after the Summit Point stop of the three-stage Luzon leg of the Sta. Lucia Tour on Thursday, setting the stage for another thrilling race to the finish for the two dominant teams.

The Davaoeños topped Group 2, placed third in Group I and wound up fourth in Group 3 for 33 points that was enough to erase the lead Cebu built in the first two legs of the course-hopping series among members of Sta. Lucia clubs.

Alta Vista managed to win Group 1 for the third consecutive time and finish third in Group 2 but could only finished sixth in Group 3 for 29 points.

Defending overall champion Palos Verdes and Alta Vista now share top spot with 98 points going to the simultaneous rounds at Orchard and Eagle Ridge on Friday and Saturday.

Eagle Ridge likewise stayed in the hunt by posting 31 points after topping Group 3, emerging runner-up in Group 1 and sixth in Group 2.

Lakewood remained in fourth at 62 after earning 20 at Summit, Royale Tagaytay tied Summit for fifth at 45, Orchard was seventh at 28 and Caliraya Springs, boosted by its best showing so far in the series of third in Group 3, upped its total to 12.

Leg results at Summit had Alta Vista 1 made up of Dennis Canoy, Victor Gocela, Agapito Suan Jr. and Enrico Solon pooling 135 to win by a big margin over Eagle Ridge (124) and Palos Verdes (108) in the centerpiece Group 1.

It was close in Group 2, with Palos Verdes 2 (Victor Co, Jaime Tan, Modesto Castillo and Ronald Galicia) edging Orchard 3 and Alta Vista 3 by just a point, 117-116.

Eagle Ridge's Sergio Ong, Edgardo Ho, Eli Escolar and Elpidio Ong amassed 107 to finish three points up on Royala Tagaytay and 13 ahead of Caliraya Springs.

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RP gets 2 loans worth $650M from ADB

INDICATORS

P 49.67 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 8, 2006

Funds to help power sector, capital markets

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK HAS APPROVED two loans worth $650 million to help the Philippines avert a burgeoning power crisis and boost the governance of the non-bank financial sector.

The loans—$450 million for the power sector development program and $200 million for the new financial market regulation program—brought the ADB's lending to the Philippines for 2006 to its highest level in eight years.

"This is our strongest commitment to the Philippines, our host country, and also our confidence in sustaining achievements in fiscal consolidation and sectoral reforms that the government has embarked on," the multilat-

RP GETS/ B3

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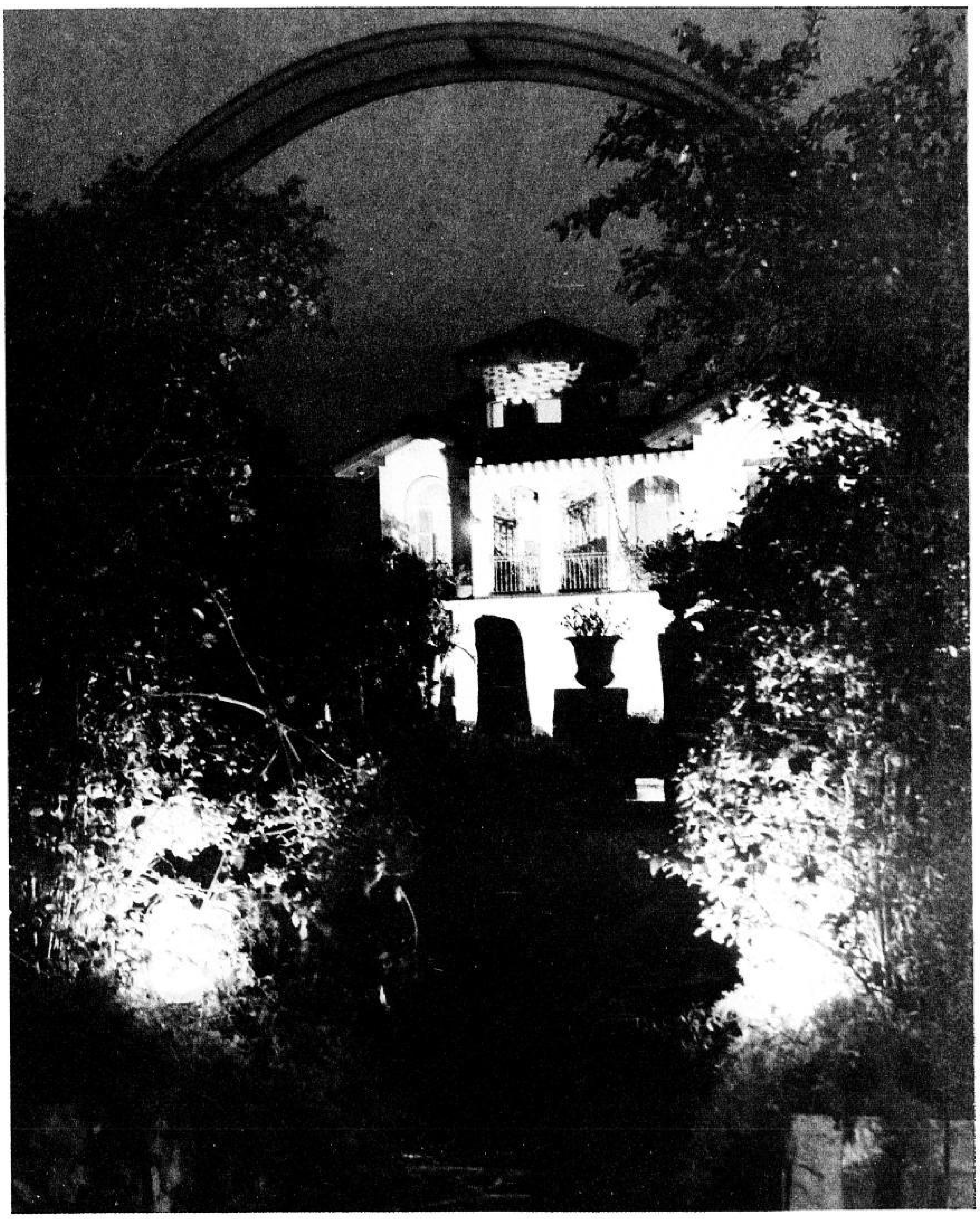
Brittany BEAUTIFUL

A MAGNIFICENCE BORN OF THE OLD WORLD.
A ROMANCE WITH COURTYARDS..
GLORIOUS WITH THE RISING AND SETTING SUN

Photos by Wig Tysmans



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SEC asked to probe Cosmos issue

Soft drink sellers allege they are victims of anomalous scheme

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

NINE FORMER SOFT DRINK DEALERS of Cosmos Bottling Corp. (Cosmos) have asked the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to investigate allegations that the company has been padding its sales figures through its warehousing system.

Dealers led by Erlinda Manalo, said to be one of Cosmos' top three soft drink dealers in Malabon, wrote to SEC chair Fe Barin, urging her to protect the investing public by immediately launching a probe into the "anomalous and fraudulent" scheme of the San Miguel subsidiary.

"We ... confirm the report [of] Fortunato Peñaredondo in the business section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer about the reported anomalous scheme employed by SMC to inflate its financial records by implementing the so-called nontraditional warehousing (NTW) or central depot system," the dealers wrote.

Cosmos is a subsidiary of San Miguel Corp., the country's largest food and beverage firm.

Peñaredondo, a former Cosmos assistant vice president in charge of Metro Davao and Mindanao sales, earlier claimed that Cosmos' revenues were bloated to the tune of P10 billion from 2001 to 2004 through the warehousing scheme.

Apart from the alleged P10-billion overstatement, Peñaredondo also claimed that the policy of Coca-Cola Bottlers Phils. Inc. (CCBPI)—CBC's parent firm—to stockpile "millions cases" of soft drink products in warehouses, inflated the firm's accounts receivable figure by as much as P20 billion during the same period.

Dealers alleged that the Cosmos soft drink products were "not delivered" to their stores or warehouses, but were instead stored in so-called depots being rented and supervised by Cosmos.

"For that, we were required to issue post dated checks for the products not yet delivered to us," Manalo and the other dealers told the SEC. "Accordingly, our post dated checks issued to (Cosmos) would form part of the accounts receivables of SMC."

The dealers admitted that Cosmos had filed charges against them for issuing bouncing checks. Cosmos had accused the dealers of nonpayment of Cosmos products even though the dealers had issued post dated checks.

Manalo said that her case is still pending before a Caloocan court.

She said that she tolerated the company's NTW system at first to maintain business relationships with Cosmos. But she later found out that she was losing money because of the system because the company would sell to her another batch of soft drink cases without accounting for the earlier batch that she had bought from them.

"We don't know what's happening with the stocks (soft drink cases) we bought, and a few weeks later, they would sell to us again, which is more than what we need," she said in the vernacular. "We believe that we are victims of a fraudulent scheme employed by SMC through (Cosmos) in order to overstate its sales and revenues."

The Coca-Cola Bottling Group (CCBG), the soft beverage unit of SMC, earlier denied Peñaredondo's accusations that the group had overstated its sales.

CCBG is composed of Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc., Cosmos Bottling Corporation, and Philippine Beverage Partners Inc.

Also, SMC yesterday issued a statement refuting the claims of the group of soft drink dealers.

According to SMC, the former soft drink dealers have been charged under the Batasang Pambansa 22 or the Anti-Bouncing Check Law for issuing post-dated checks without necessary funds following the delivery of Cosmos stocks.

The company also said that the dealers are trying to evade responsibility from their obligations by riding on the claims of Peñaredondo, the former Cosmos employee.

SMC reiterates that there is nothing irregular about the warehousing system and Cosmos' financial records are in order.

Purefoods to acquire control of 3 SMC units

FOOD MANUFACTURER SAN Miguel Purefoods Co. Inc. (SMPFC) has secured the approval of its board of directors to swap P4.6 billion worth of shares with its parent firm San Miguel Corp. (SMC) in exchange for shares in SMC's three key food subsidiaries.

SMPFC will issue a total of 70.87 million additional shares to SMC, consisting of 47.5 million class A shares and 23.4 million class B shares, in exchange for SMC's shares in Monterey, Magnolia and San Miguel Foods Inc.

"Upon completion of the transaction, the different SMC food businesses will be under SMPFC," SMC chief finance officer Ferdinand Constantino said. "This will also simplify financial reporting."

Under the proposed transaction, SMC will transfer its shareholdings—with a book value of P5.6 billion—in the three food subsidiaries to SMPFC.

Since SMPFC has only about 9.4 million unissued shares, SMPFC's authorized capital stock will be increased by 62 million shares, or from 84 million shares to 146 million shares, to fully cover the issuance of additional shares to SMC.

After the transaction, SMC's ownership in SMPFC will increase to 99.92 percent from 99.83 percent. SMPFC in turn will own 100 percent of San Miguel Foods and Magnolia, and 95.95 percent of Monterey.

The proposed increase in capital stock is subject to its shareholders' approval in a special meeting set on Jan. 31, 2007.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

No parting of ways for Inquirer, GMA

By Riza T. Olchondra

INQ7 INTERACTIVE INC.'S PARENTS are having separate rooms, but are definitely not separating, officials said Friday.

Yesterday, Inquirer Publications and GMA 7 signed a memorandum of agreement to have separate access points for INQ7.net, the two companies' common online arm.

GMA 7 and the INQUIRER entered into a content partnership some seven years ago and launched the news site Inq7.net. Each company owns about half of Inq7.net. The union was formalized in February 25, 2001.

Inq7.net combines original content with material from INQUIRER, GMA 7 and other partners for 24-hour delivery of news and information.

INQUIRER chairperson Marixi R. Prieto, INQUIRER president Ma. Alexandra Prieto Romualdez, and GMA Network CEO Felipe L. Gozon led the bigwigs from both companies in the signing ceremony that formalized the changes.

Javier Vicente Rufino, editor in chief and senior vice president of Inq Interactive, and Malou Mangahas, editor in chief of Gmanews.tv, both assured that there will be no separation of web sites.

"Inq7.net will be a whole new creature combining doorways to the best content of both INQUIRER and GMA," Rufino said.

Gozon also assured that the public will see more coordinated content next year, when the parent companies join forces to cover the developments in and around the election period.

RP manufacturing badly needs a boost

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINES NEEDS TO further develop high-technology manufacturing and catch up with mineral production as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations faces stiff competition from China and India, according to the Economic Intelligence Unit.

EIU, a leading global research and advisory firm, said its study titled "Asean exports: Today, tomorrow and the high-value challenge" showed that while the success of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' export sector has been "staggering," the group must strengthen further high-value exports mainly through integration of their markets.

"Asean is one of the most trade-dependent blocs in the world today and it must strive to stay above China on the value-added curve," EIU said.

High-value goods refer to those that generate a lot of value-added such as engines, gas turbines, computers and cameras, which are made with jobs that are better paid and less physically demanding than low-value goods.

"(Asean manufacturers) must not be reduced to becoming suppliers of commodities and low-cost inputs into China's manufacturing industry," it added.

Also, while India remains behind Asean in exports, it threatens likewise to overtake the region in the future.

EIU noted that China has overtaken the seven largest Asean economies as a group—Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Vietnam and Burma (Myanmar)—in total exports as well as high-value exports.

PPI gets SEC nod to sell plans anew

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Commission (SEC) has approved the application of pre-need firm Pacific Plans Inc. to sell P3 billion in fixed value life plans.

According to sources, there will be certain conditions that will be imposed on PPI before it can proceed with the sale, such as the opening of a separate bank account for the proceeds of the sale of new products to allow easier and better SEC monitoring.

The fixed value life policies will be sold separately from the traditional products being monitored under the company's rehabilitation.

Earlier, the Court of Appeals overturned a ruling of the Makati trial court that approved PPI's rehabilitation plan.

The CA remanded the case to the trial court so the petitioner, the Parents Enabling Parents group composed of pre-need plan holders, could present evidence.

PPI, for its part, had said it would question the appellate court's decision to throw its rehabilitation case back to the lower court.

The pre-need company, however, stressed that the Court of Appeals ruling did not reverse a decision of the Makati Regional Trial Court that paved the way for its rehabilitation.

PPI legal counsel Felix Desiderio Jr. said the appellate court merely wanted the Makati RTC to give involved parties the opportunity to present their positions on the rehabilitation plan of PPI.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Shares closed 1.26% up

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 1.26 percent higher, led by strong gains in index heavyweight Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), dealers said.

Meralco shares rebounded after a Supreme Court decision to overturn an appellate court's ruling in 2004 that nullified Meralco's tariff increase.

This lead outweighed profit-taking in other stocks.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 35.22 points to close at the day's high of 2,831.40. It hit a low of 2,805.90.

The broader all-share index rose 13.26 points to 1,756.82.

Losers narrowly beat gainers 57 to 55, with 41 stocks unchanged.

Turnover was 2.97 billion shares worth P3.4 billion ($68.17 million dollars).

The peso at midday was at 49.535 to the dollar.

"It appears that the market has firm support now at the 2,800 points level, which is our year-end target," said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities. "This exciting development involving Meralco boosts our expectations of a sustained improvement in corporate earnings."

According to Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities Inc., the market "is expecting a dramatic improvement in Meralco's bottom line going forward as the company will no longer make any further provisions" for possible losses if the courts had ruled against the tariff increase.

Top-traded Meralco B-shares, open to both Filipinos and foreign investors, advanced P13.50 to P51.00, while the A-shares, restricted to locals, jumped P13.00 to P49.50.

Shares of Meralco parent firm First Philippine Holdings Corp, were up P7.50 to P59.00 while ultimate parent Benpres Holdings Corp. advanced 34 centavos to P2.08.

Meralco affiliate, power producer First Gen Corp. was up one peso at P52.

Heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone was among the day's losers, falling P10 to P2,455.

Food and beverage firm San Miguel Corp's A-shares were unchanged at P66 but its B-shares fell 50 centavos to P73. *AFP*

BDO UNIBANK BANCO DE ORO

NOTICE OF SPECIAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

TO OUR STOCKHOLDERS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special Meeting of the Stockholders of **Banco de Oro Universal Bank** (the Company) will be held at Manila A and B Function Rooms (previously Quezon B), Makati Shangri-La, Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City, Philippines on December 27, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. with the following agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Proof of Notice and Determination of Existence of Quorum and Certification of Quorum
3. Ratification of the approval of the Plan of Merger
4. Approval of the proposed increase of authorized capital stock
5. Other matters
6. Adjournment

The Board has fixed the close of business hours on November 20, 2006 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of meeting and to vote at the specified election date.

Makati City, November 27, 2006.

ANTONIO C. PACIS
Corporate Secretary

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of December 8, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	6,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	43.5	44.5	43	44.5	1,802,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	62.5	63	62.5	63	739,000
China Banking Corp.	700	710	700	700	610
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.47	6,560,000
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	78.5	79.5	78	79	88,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	48.5	50	48.5	50	2,939,600
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	58	58	58	58	500
Philippine National Bank	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	84,400
Phil. Savings Bank	46.5	48	46	48	84,400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	25.5	27	25.5	27	154,700
Security Bank Corp.	66	66	66	66	41,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	50	50.5	50	50.5	4,300
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	4.75	4.9	4.75	4.9	519,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	2,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1620	1650	1620	1650	1,000
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.34	1.32	1.34	317,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	260	260	260	260	2,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2110	2120	2110	2115	610
Ivantage Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	646,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	52	54	52	52	2,429,600
First Phil Hldgs Corp	54	59.5	54	59	6,377,100
Manila Electric Co. A	40	50	40	49.5	3,720,800
Manila Electric Co. B	41	51	41	51	10,595,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.6	9.9	9.6	9.8	3,078,000
Petron Corp.	4.05	4.15	4.05	4.1	3,863,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.28	320,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	306,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	20.75	21	20.5	21	31,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	41	41.5	41	41	1,134,600
Rfm Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	159,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3	3	2.9	2.9	179,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	1,380,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65.5	66	65	66	58,900
San Miguel Corp. B	73	73	72.5	73	84,600
Alliance Tuna Int'l. Inc.	2.08	2.14	1.98	1.98	1,598,000
Universal Robina Corp	19.75	19.75	19.5	19.5	955,900
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	1.06	1.06	1.02	1.02	13,819,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	3.05	3.2	3.05	3.15	691,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.5	3,549,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.9	6.1	5.9	6	58,000
Republic Cement Corp.	3.8	4.05	3.8	3.95	2,085,000
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies Inc	5.1	5.1	5	5.1	8,656,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1	1	1	1	128,215,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Geograce Res. Phil. Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.72	0.73	33,680,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.175	0.18	8,540,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	20,000,000
Ayala Corp.	487.5	490	485	490	78,980
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.61	860,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	6	6.2	6	6.1	4,620,000
Alliance Global Group Inc	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	6,700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.0575	0.0575	20,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	1,195,000
Apc Group, Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	8,040,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.01	123,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.92	0.9	0.9	1,360,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.2	1.9	1.9	1,552,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.05	156,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.1	1.18	1.1	1.16	79,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	13,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.88	2.08	1.86	2.08	111,614,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.3	6	6.1	5,247,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.45	3.6	3.45	3.6	1,498,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.84	1.92	1.84	1.92	1,677,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	9.3	9.3	9.1	9.2	91,000
Medco Holdings	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	220,000
Magnum Holdings Inc	4.7	4.85	4.45	4.5	1,201,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.6	1.68	2,076,000
Pacifica	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.02	1,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	700,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1.42	1.5	1.42	1.46	13,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	300,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.145	12,110,000
Sm Investments Corp.	290	292.5	282.5	292.5	291,510
South China Resources Inc	0.94	0.94	0.92	0.92	150,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.58	1.72	1.58	1.66	3,560,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.175	0.18	0.175	0.18	8,260,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14.75	14.75	14.5	14.75	4,434,700
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	70,000
Belle Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	2,787,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.74	1.78	2,848,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	1,650,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.25	3.1	3.25	1,290,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	45,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	470,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	60,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.54	13,670,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	101,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.72	1.74	1.7	1.72	2,311,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	392,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	208,000,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	22,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.51	0.51	0.46	0.48	6,440,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	2.24	2.32	2.24	2.3	164,421,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	400,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	1,925,100
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.7	0.71	0.61	0.67	54,030,000
Sm Development Corp.	2.46	2.46	2.34	2.44	418,000
Sm Prime Holdings Inc.	9.8	9.9	9.7	9.8	2,777,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.56	70,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	19.75	21	19.75	21	147,600
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1	1	1	1	83,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.6	1.62	1.58	1.6	8,399,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1255	1255	1250	1250	12,240
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	5.9	6	5.9	6	1,406,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2455	2465	2445	2455	75,380
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.185	12,070,000
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	8,600,000
Ionics Inc.	2.02	2.04	2	2.04	139,000
Ipvg Corp.	4.4	4.55	4.2	4.45	3,128,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.055	0.0575	0.055	0.0575	2,000,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,000
Transpacific Broadband	5.2	5.6	5.1	5.6	480,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	6,700,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.18	1.2	1.16	1.2	34,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	26,300
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	80,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	6,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.2	2.2	630,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	1,050,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.56	910,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	9	9	9	9	4,000
Ipeople Inc	2.95	3	2.9	3	320,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Jth Davies Holdings Inc.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	400
Macroasia Corp.	2.26	2.26	2.18	2.18	338,000
Paxys, Inc.	18.25	18.25	17.5	17.5	138,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	33,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.3	350,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	176,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	83,700,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.1	8.4	8.1	8.3	2,701,000
Benguet Corp. A	9	9	9	9	39,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	15,920,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	8,290,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	403,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.023	175,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.011	622,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	2,192,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	20	20	19	19	171,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.56	0.57	0.55	0.56	2,220,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.92	0.96	0.91	0.96	6,280,000
OIL					
Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	2,430,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	2,100,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.96	0.97	0.96	0.97	600,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.99	210,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	57,000
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	108	108	108	108	2,750

CURRENCIES

December 8, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.752219	1.000000	49.4880
Japan	Yen	0.006532	0.008683	0.4297
United Kingdom	Pound	1.477433	1.964100	97.1994
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.096856	0.128761	6.3721
Switzerland	Franc	0.629683	0.837100	41.4264
Canada	Dollar	0.654787	0.870474	43.0780
Singapore	Dollar	0.489121	0.650237	32.1789
Australia	Dollar	0.594498	0.790326	39.1117
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.995435	2.652731	131.2784
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.200581	0.266652	13.1961
Brunei	Dollar	0.487536	0.648130	32.0747
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000110	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.021159	0.028129	1.3920
UAE	Dirham	0.204813	0.272279	13.4745
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.329400	65.7893
Korea	Won	0.000823	0.001094	0.0541
China	Yuan**	0.096147	0.127818	6.3255
Denmark	Kroner	0.134138	0.178323	8.8248
India	Rupee	0.016889	0.022452	1.1111
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212431	0.282406	13.9757
Mexico	New Peso	0.069052	0.091798	4.5429
New Zealand	Dollar	0.518808	0.689703	34.1320
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012360	0.016431	0.8131
South Africa	Rand	0.107154	0.142450	7.0496
Sweden	Kroner	0.110554	0.146970	7.2733
Syria	Pound	0.014491	0.019264	0.9533
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023277	0.030945	1.5314

Source: REUTERS' FOREX CLOSING PRICES as of NY Time- Dec. 7, 2006
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen
** Asian Time Closing Rate as of 07-Dec-06

Consumer confidence weakens in 4th quarter

Better conditions expected in 2007

By Doris C. Dumlao

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN THE PHILIPpines weakened this fourth quarter despite the country's improving economic fundamentals, but things are expected to be rosier 12 months ahead, according to a quarterly survey conducted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The bleak outlook based on the BSP's consumer expectations survey—which covered 3,028 households in the National Capital Region from Oct. 2 to 7—sharply deviated from the upbeat sentiment of businessmen during the same period.

A separate survey by the BSP showed that business confidence surged to a five-and-a-half year high as the stronger peso, softer oil prices, heavy overseas Filipino remittances and Christmas spending were expected to boost sales during this quarter.

"This (difference) could be partly due to the high proportion of respondents in the lower income group who tend to benefit from favorable business and economic developments with a lag, particularly in terms of job creation and better labor conditions," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a statement.

The consumer confidence index in the NCR for the fourth quarter dipped by 2.4 points to -39.8 percent compared to the third quarter survey, with respondents citing the country's weak general economic condition and poor prospects on family income and financial situation.

"However, consumers in all income levels expected conditions will be better in 2007," Tetangco said.

A negative consumer confidence index indicates that respondents with unfavorable views still outnumber those with favorable views.

But over the next 12 months, optimists edged out pessimists as the confidence index reverted to a positive 0.5 percent from -6.4 percent in the previous survey.

Consumers were also bearish for the quarter ahead. Although the confidence index was still at -4 percent, it was up by 5.4 points from the previous quarter's survey.

For the current quarter, consumers belonging to the low income groups or those with monthly earnings of less than P30,000 were more bearish on the economy and on their own financial conditions.

In contrast, respondents from the higher income groups were less bearish, with their confidence index rising by 14 points to -43.1 percent.

But the respondents expected an increase in their household consumption in the first quarter, particularly projecting spending more for food, clothing and power consumption.

But more consumers indicated that the fourth quarter of 2006 would be a good time to purchase consumer durables like vehicles or real estate compared to the third quarter.

For 2007, however, the number of those intending to buy these consumer durables declined, suggesting that the spending outlook was more cautious and not reflective of the upbeat mood for the coming year.

"This could be explained in part by the tendency of consumers to purchase big-ticket items during the holiday season, and for such purchases to taper off thereafter," Tetangco said.

Ecozone investments surged 41% to ₱70.18B in first 11 months

By Abigail L. Ho

INVESTMENTS REGISTERED with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) surged 40.71 percent to P70.18 billion as of end-November from P49.87 billion a year ago, driven mostly by new investments in the information technology sector.

In a report to Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila, Peza Director General Lilia de Lima said that for November alone, the government agency approved P1.61 billion worth of investments, 23.44 percent higher than the P1.31 billion registered in the same period the year before.

These new projects, she said, should generate export sales of around $146 million and provide direct employment to 2,937 individuals.

Seventeen projects were approved last month, she said.

In the January-November period, the number of approved projects reached 411, which are expected to generate 75,384 additional jobs. This number is 15.77-percent higher than the 355 projects approved in the same period last year, which provided 65,376 new jobs.

More than 25 percent, or 106 of the approved Peza projects in the first 11 months, were IT-related generating P8.73 billion worth of investments. The IT projects will provide 35,557 new jobs.

Locators within Peza-controlled economic zones saw their export receipts surging 13.26 percent to $29.83 billion in the January-October period from $26.33 billion in the same period last year.

Investors inside private economic zones, on the other hand, posted export receipts amounting to $22.35 billion, while those in the public ecozones contributed $6.66 billion in exports.

The highest export receipts came from companies within the Gateway Business Park in Cavite, registering $5.35 billion worth of exports in the first 10 months of the year, 13.35 percent higher than last year's $4.72 billion.

RP gets 2 loans . . .

From page B1

eral lender's vice president for operations, Lawrence Greenwood Jr., said in a briefing yesterday.

The loans, which were under negotiations over the past few years, would be released by the ADB in the next few weeks as the government has finally met the major structural reforms or "triggers" for their quick disbursement.

The $450-million loan for the power sector will support the government's absorption of National Power Corp.'s long-term liabilities that, in turn, is a prerequisite to restore the financial viability of the debt-ridden sector.

It will assist efforts to privatize state-owned power systems and introduce a competitive electricity market, which will reduce the burden on the government and decrease unsustainable subsidies to the power sector.

"Without a stable and reliable electricity supply, industry will not grow and generate the employment needed to decrease poverty," Greenwood said. "The country could be facing power outages, decreased economic growth and higher electricity rates if the reforms envisioned under this program are not pursued."

Though the domestic economy has grown steadily in recent years, the ADB is concerned that this growth has not necessarily benefited the poor. As electricity is an input to most economic processes, it is seen as an important ingredient to poverty reduction.

"Restoring financial viability to the power sector is essential to fiscal consolidation and will be a key to attracting new investments. This will help keep the power situation stable in the years to come," Greenwood said.

The Department of Finance will be the executing agency for the loan, which is tentatively programmed to run for four years to 2010. The ADB is also planning a second power sector subprogram subject to the government's fulfillment of other policy conditions.

The second loan of $200 million aims to develop a more efficient financial sector. The money will be used to support government efforts to broaden and deepen the financial system, strengthen governance in the non-bank financial subsector and improve efficiency in the securities market.

Specifically, it will support legislative reforms to strengthen the Insurance Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission and bring their staff salaries at par with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas'.

"As is the case in many other regional economies, the Philippines is working to deepen its financial markets and diversify away from excessive dependence on banking," Greenwood said.

"The aim is to make its financial sector more stable and more efficient in allocating capital and more flexible in providing capital to infrastructure projects that require longer-term financing instruments," he said.

The new Financial Market Regulation and Intermediation Program is supported by the 2005-2010 Capital Market Development Plan, likewise developed with ADB support, which aims to stimulate growth as well as improve the efficiency, corporate governance and competitiveness of the capital market over the next five years.

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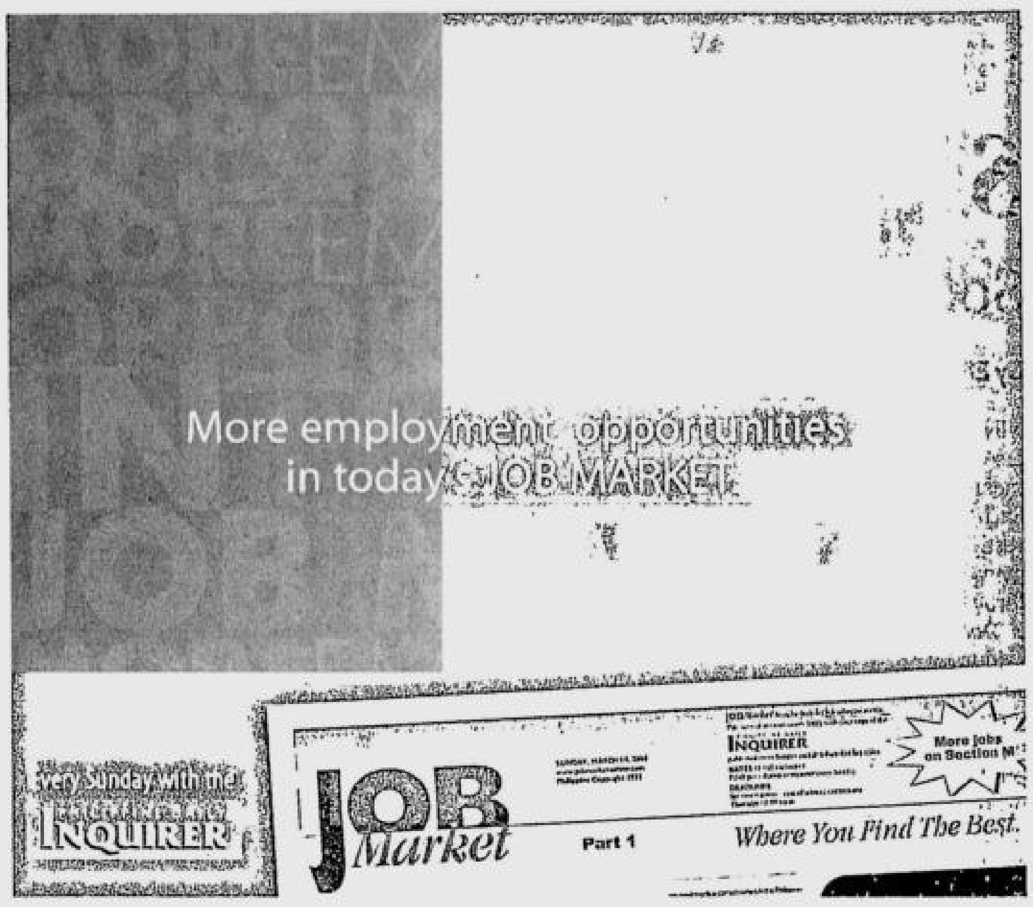

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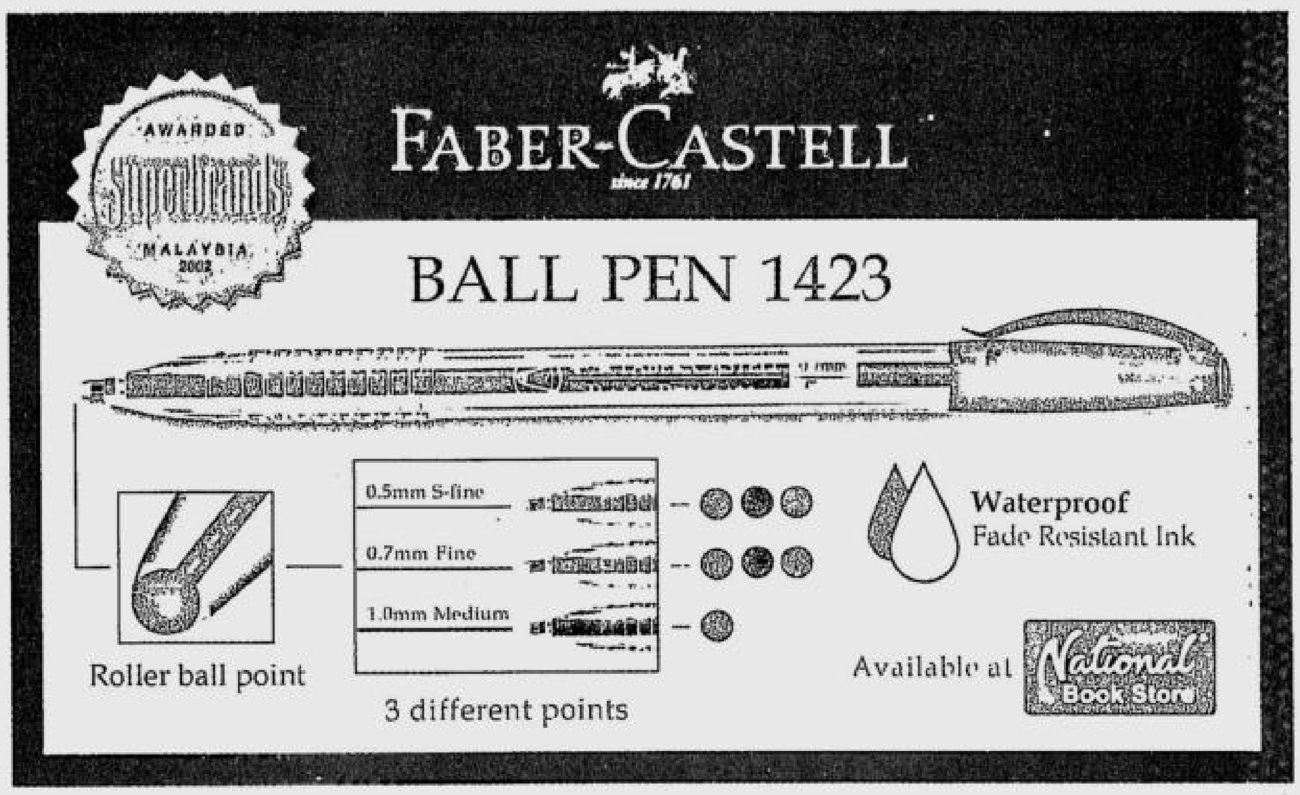

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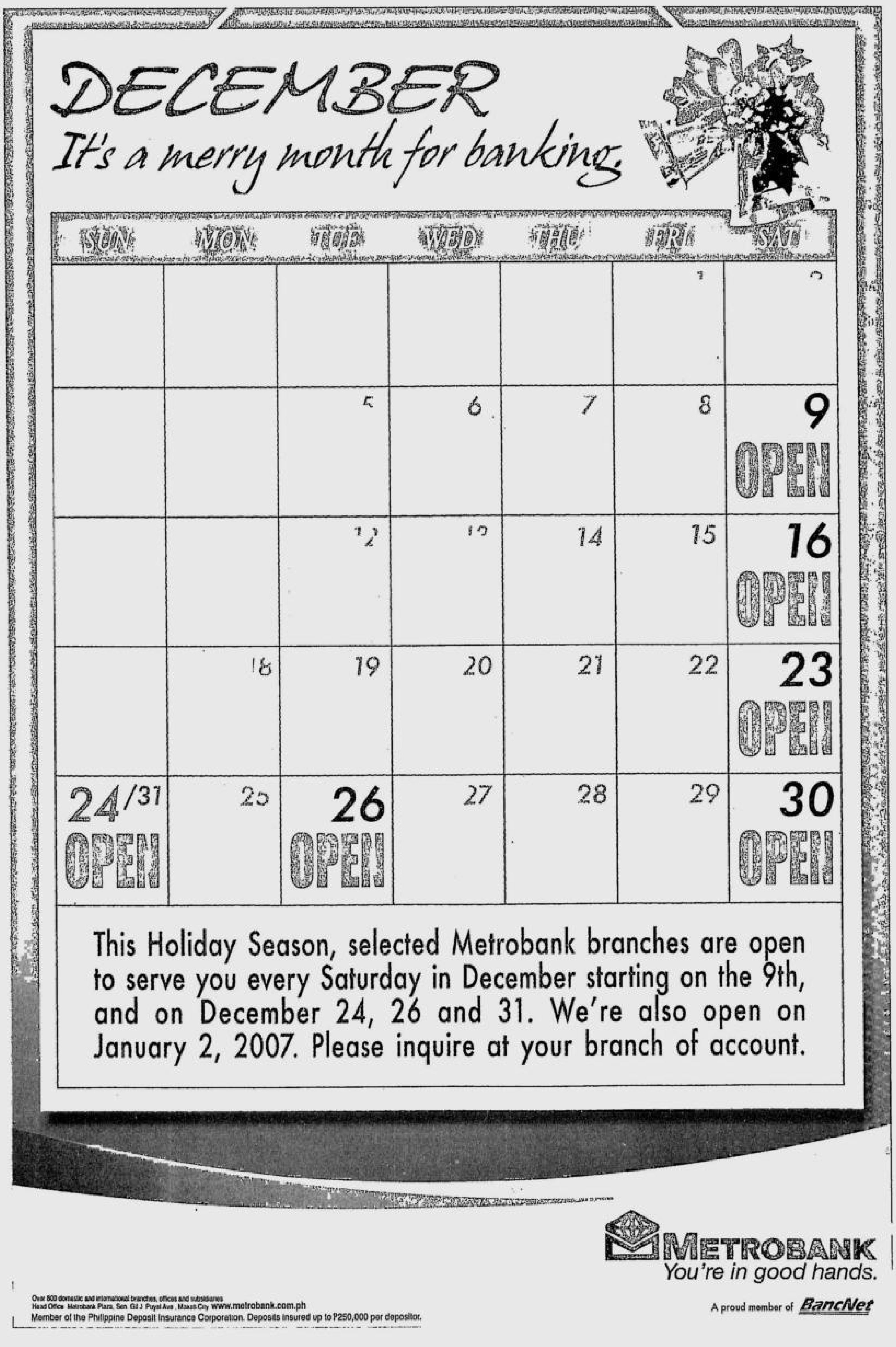

DECEMBER
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Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Text us your feedbac sage to 2207 (C Smart)

Nurturing awareness for environmental protection

PHILIPPINE representatives (from left) Recabar, Udasco, Dellava and team leader Gersava, seated along the heavy industrialized portion of the river Rhine, learned first hand how countries like Germany, are able to achieve trade-offs between economic growth and environmental protection.

Text and photo by Charles E. Buban

EACH YEAR, AROUND 50 young environmental envoys from around the world visits Germany for a four-day trip to learn about trends and perspectives in the field of environmental protection and sustainability.

Germany, despite being a highly industrialized country in Western Europe, has strong environmental policies and standards, proving that these two seemingly opposites could coexist and not hinder economic growth and prosperity.

Spearheaded by Bayer (whose headquarters is located in Leverkusen), the event known as Bayer Young Environmental Envoy (BYEE) aims to further strengthen these young individual's environmental knowledge, thus contributing to greater youth involvement in environmental issues in their respective countries.

Different backgrounds

"Coming from different cultural backgrounds and experiences with regard to environmental protection, these young environmental envoys were able to see how Bayer, a multinational chemical and health care corporation as well as other private and government outfits in Germany are able to ensure environmental sustainability," explained Bayer (Southeast Asia) corporate communications head Dorothy Claro.

Claro explained that the company has a proud and long tradition of being pioneers in environmental protection: Beginning in the 1990s alone, Bayer has already spent more than $21 billion.

The establishment of the BYEE program in 1995, is just part of this corporate direction. Through an alliance with the United Nations Environment Program (Unep), the company created an environmental education plan that would involve young individuals.

"Originally introduced in Thailand, the program was subsequently implemented in India, China, Singapore, South Korea, Indonesia, the Philippines, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Poland and Kenya with Malaysia and Vietnam becoming the latest addition this year," Claro said.

Environmental projects

The 48 young environmental envoys who visited Germany this year came from 16 countries and were chosen by Bayer on the basis of their environmental projects they presented in a special competition organized by the company in these countries.

So far, some 6,000 young environmental envoys have been included in the BYEE program while almost 300 of them were chosen to be included in the trip to Germany.

This year, the Philippines is represented by Alfredo Gersava Jr. from the Sultan Kudarat State Polytechnic College, Leonardo Udasco Jr. from the Nueva Viscaya State University, Janus Le-an Dellava and John Ryan Recabar, both from the University of the Philippines-Visayas.

The four were selected out of 120 participants coming from the different universities and colleges around the country.

Short-listed

Reynaldo Cutanda of Bayer Philippines corporate communications explained that for the first time, the participants, after being short-listed, were required to implement their project ideas within a given period of time.

"Each of them presented before a panel of judges the outcome of their individual projects, as well as the obstacles they encountered along the way, and how they managed to overcome these problems," Cutanda said.

He added that because of this unique requirement set by Bayer Philippines, the four representatives not only presented idea proposals—like what most of their counterparts did—but actual results of their projects.

For example, Gersava, team leader of the Philippine representatives, introduced a technology for making rice hull cement-bonded blocks that is now being used by the resident building houses under the Gawad Kalinga (a nationwide housing program for the poor initiated by the non-governmental organizations) in Sultan Kudarat in Mindanao.

A civil engineering student, Gersava's project not only provided livelihood for these communities but also gave residents ways on how to cut costs on such an important construction material.

Promoting vermicomposting

For his part, Udasco, a newly certified forester, is promoting vermicomposting—use of earthworms to turn organic wastes into very high-quality compost—as an alternative way of converting agricultural waste into organic fertilizers in his community.

Dellava on the other hand, developed a device that converts residual plastic waste into vegetable pots for application in urban gardening. He is now currently working to involve the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation of Roxas City, Capiz in Panay island in the project implementation of his technology.

Recabar, for his part, launched an anti-soil erosion campaign in Polomolok, South Cotabato in Mindanao to educate residents about the risks of soil erosion.

Through his efforts, Recabar convinced the community and a multinational company based in the area to join hands in addressing the said issue.

Fuller understanding

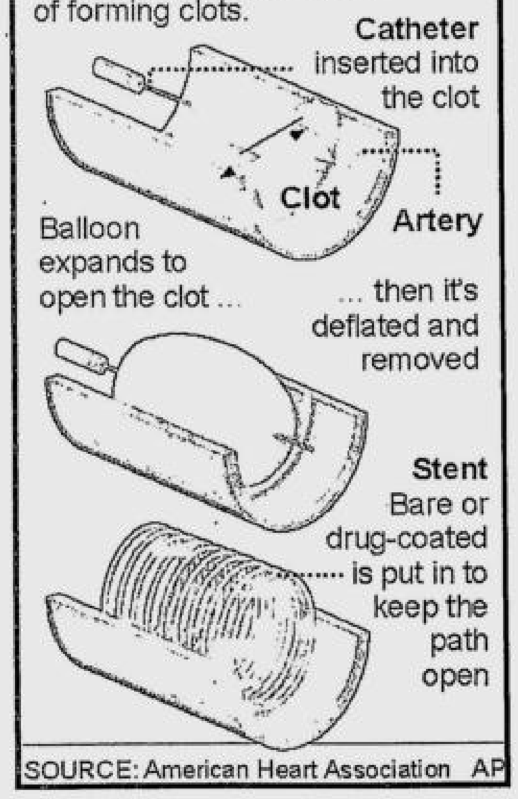
Cutanda explained that with this trip to Germany, Bayer Philippines hopes to give its latest batch of young environmental envoys fuller understanding of what role industry, authorities and private households play in environmental protection and how they interact.

"There is a way to achieve trade-offs between economic growth and environmental protection and it is hoped that by reporting on their impressions, experiences and insights on their return home, these four young environmental envoys as well as the rest of this year's group will be able to further raise awareness of sustainable development in their respective communities," he said.

In fact, Cutanda informed that already a number of former BYEE participants now have jobs where they may play a key role in environment protection.

Inserting a stent

Eighty percent or more of the 650,000 stents implanted in Americans each year are drug coated, which have a risk of forming clots.



Catheter inserted into the clot
Clot
Artery
Balloon expands to open the clot ...
... then it's deflated and removed
Stent
Bare or drug-coated is put in to keep the path open

SOURCE: American Heart Association AP

Jatropha, the celebrity oil

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

SOARING FUEL PRICES REQUIRE US TO turn to alternative energy sources. Ethanol shows promise, but there is another contender: *Jatropha curcas L.* Called different names in various areas—tubatuba, tubang-bakod, sambo and tagumbao—Jatropha is now, in the words of DOST media writer Ma. Elena Talingdan-Tabangcura, a "celebrity plant."

Jatrophia is very hardy. A perennial shrub-tree resistant to drought, typhoon and flood, it grows fast in poor soil, with little maintenance. Folk beliefs say that this plant can drive snakes away, so it is used as fencing in many rural areas. The plant bears fruits after two years but DOST studies show that economic yield starts on the 4th year.

Jatropha can live up to 50 years. A hectare grown to jatropha could yield 3.5 to 5 tons of seeds. Initial studies reveal that with three to four kilos of seeds, oil yield would be about one liter of crude or unprocessed oil that can be used directly to run small diesel engines like hand tractors, water pumps and threshers.

Engineer Loreto Carasi of the Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research and Development explained that India had devoted idle lands to jatropha plantation and developed a small-scale extraction plant. What's more, this renewable fuel is currently being tested to run locomotive trains. India has also identified the best among several jatropha species with the best yield. The DOST is now actively researching on this alternative fuel source.

Multiplication video

A reader, Ivan Quentin [try1cmor@yahoo.com] writes: This short video shows a graphical technique for multiplying integers by drawing sets of intersecting straight lines: www.glumbert.com/media/multiply.

The examples in the video are 21 x 13 = 273 and 123 x 321 = 39,483. I tried the same technique using 354 x 243 = 86,022 and it worked when I extended the method a little using the principles in the examples shown in the video. I think the technique is easily explainable by matching each step of the integer multiplication method we all learned in grade school to each step of counting the intersection points of the straight lines.

I viewed this interesting video, and yes, the multiplication principles are correct. Thank you, Ivan, for sharing this information with everyone.

Words of wisdom

Another reader, Ma. Belinda Custodio [bidibap@pldtdsl.net] shares these humorous yet insightful snippets, uttered by Grade One students who were asked to complete popular proverbs. Sometimes science and fact mixed with epithets lead to funny things. Here are 10 of the best:

- Strike while…the bug is close.
- Never underestimate the power of…termites.
- Don't bite the hand that…looks dirty.
- You can't teach an old dog new…Math.
- The pen is mightier than the…pigs.
- When there's smoke there's…pollution.
- A penny saved is…not much.
- Two's company, three's…the Musketeers.
- Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and…you have to blow your nose.
- When the blind lead the blind…get out of the way.

Finally, words of wisdom from someone who has lived life to the fullest. Dr. Maya Angelou, author, survivor and inspiration. My dear friend Julie Tiu sent me these words, which ground me in these hectic times. These are five things Angelou says she has learned:

- No matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.
- Making a living is not the same thing as making a life.
- Even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.
- We shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; we need to be able to throw some things back.
- I still have a lot to learn.

* * *

Queena N. Lee-Chua is a professor of mathematics and psychology at Ateneo de Manila University. Contact her at blessbook@yahoo.com.

MDH at 50: world-class health service

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MANILA DOCTORS HOSPITAL celebrates this month its golden anniversary. The hospital, for most of its existence, has remained low-key, being known simply as one of the hospitals in the bay area on United Nations avenue. But it has always stood firm in its mission and vision as a leading center of excellence and wellness in the country, providing holistic quality health care.

MDH has also been consistent in doing its share as a good corporate citizen by conducting regular free surgical procedures to indigents in the surrounding communities, and has in fact taken part in various programs supporting marginalized families in the grassroots level. It is probably one of the few hospitals with an active Corporate Social Responsibility Department (CSRD) in place. It regularly conducts medical outreach programs to surrounding communities. Since the 1990s, the hospital also established a Social Service Unit to accommodate indigent patients requiring hospitalization.

It has indeed gone a long way since 1956 when 14 idealistic specialist-physicians, fresh from training abroad, pooled their resources to put up a health facility that would offer state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment expertise and technologies at that time. They tapped the expertise of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartes to manage the day-to-day operations of the hospital and provide the personalized healing touch.

Figure held in awe

The late Dr. Ambrosio Tangco, the leader of the 14 pioneers of the hospital and who served as medical director for more than three decades, was the moving spirit behind the vision of the hospital. Dr. Tangco was a figure held in awe by most of the doctors who had the privilege to interact with him. Any discussion or debate on any issue attained its conclusion once he has given his opinion and insight.

I remember Dr. Tangco telling me once when I was just a neophyte consultant in the hospital, "Raffy, always strive for excellence. If you can't do something well enough to be considered excellent, better not do it at all." I remember arguing a bit saying, "But, sir, if we always aim for excellence in all things we do, we might be hesitant in starting anything." He replied: "It's better to do a few things excellently than to do a lot of things full of mediocrity." That sage advice resonates whenever I undertake a project.

When he got ill, Dr. Tangco recommended a successor who would keep the flame of his vision burning. The hospital board unanimously agreed that Dr. Dante Morales was the best person to take Dr. Tangco's place as medical director. MDH is now a 300-bed tertiary hospital with several hundreds of the country's top medical specialists as active consultants, and boasts of cutting-edge medical facilities.

World-class hospital

In the last two decades, MDH has grown tremendously and rightfully deserves its current recognition as a world-class hospital. On Nov. 14, 2005, it has passed the stringent audit of the prestigious Anglo Japanese American (AJA) Registrar's Inc. It is, I believe, the first hospital in the city of Manila to be ISO-certified.

The Metrobank Foundation, which now owns a majority share of the hospital, deserves the credit for the hospital's progress and development. Aniceto Sobrepeña, Metrobank Foundation president, and the rest of the board, have not only extended generous financial support to the hospital for its regular upgrading, but it has also introduced professional expertise in the management and strategic planning of the hospital. Just like any business undertaking, it aims to be profitable, so it can grow some more and share some more in its corporate social responsibility programs.

Most memorable chapter

Mr. Sobrepeña, whose brother Doc Rino is also a highly respected diabetes expert, says: "The Manila Doctors Hospital now opens the most memorable chapter of its existence at a greater height. In its 50 golden years, it has lived on to the very dream of its founders of having a world-class hospital in Manila that cares to the health and wellness needs of the people regardless of their status in life. The hospital pledges to continue delivering cost-effective medical service and offering the best value for what our patients have paid for."

We congratulate MDH for its 50 years of service and we wish it all the best as it enters its second 50 years of providing quality health care to its many patients.

Most Asean members seen not yet ready for integration

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MOST MEMBERS OF THE ASSOciation of Southeast Asian Nations are not ready for full-blown economic harmony and the 2015 target for "accelerated integration" serves only to motivate the countries to keep up their efforts toward the goal, according to the head of the Asean Business Advisory Council (Abac).

Launched in 2003 upon the mandate of Asean leaders, the Abac serves as the official link through which governments provide the private sector feedback and guidance with respect to economic integration.

Abac chair Jose Concepcion Jr. said yesterday the Philippines itself was not ready, and more so the new members like Cambodia, Burma (Myanyar), Laos and Vietnam.

"Most of the Asean peoples cannot live under full integration," Concepcion said. "Safety nets should be put in place and certain sectors or sub-sectors should be given protection against (free trade)."

A former Philippine trade secretary, Concepcion said areas that needed safety nets included agriculture and fisheries, which supply a big bulk of the food needs of populations in the region.

"It is quite ironic that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo authored laws on safety nets and safeguard measures when she was a senator," he said.

"But now, nothing is being done (to implement) these."

Peter B. Favila, the current trade secretary, echoed Concepcion's words when he addressed the Abac meeting as he reiterated calls cautioning against "too rapid" integration.

"While we are reducing market diversity within the region, we need close cooperation to also close the development gaps among members," Favila said.

He added that more developed members should be considerate of the interests and needs of the less developed ones.

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- 4-storey commercial bldg. located in highly commercialized area in Poblacion, Santiago, Isabela, lotarea=531sq.m. floorarea=1,850sq.m. selling price @ P27.2M
- 3-storey residential building located @ Hillsborough, Alabang, Muntinlupa, lotarea= 419 sq.m. floorarea=453 sq.m. price@P14.2M
- 2-stry ofc warehouse bldg @ 9th St., between 9th and 10th Ave,Grace Park, Caloocan City LA=487.50sq.m. FA=820sq.m.sellingprice= @ P13.0M
- Highly Commercialized area/vacant lot near SM South Mall, along Alabang-Zapote Road LA=2,028 sq.m. ideal for food chain, commercial spaces selling price=@P45.0M
- 3strycondounit@MakatiPrimeCity@SanAntonio Village,MakatiFA=210.79sq.m.sellingprice=P6.2M
- Highly commercialized vacant lot located near St. Joseph, Jollibee, Residenza Subd., Pag-Ibig City, lot area=4,341sq.m. @ P7,000 per sq.m.
- Ayala Alabang house& lot, floor area=350sq.m. lot area=558 sq.m. selling price@P14M

ALL PRICES ARE STILL NEGOTIABLE W/ EASY INSTALLMENT TERMS, LOW DOWN PAYMENT@20%

Gov't expects credit ratings upgrade soon

By Michelle V. Remo

TEVES

THE COUNTRY MAY NO LONGER have to wait until its debts are reduced to sustainable levels to get a credit rating upgrade.

According to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, credit ratings agencies usually grants upgrade to a country whose debts are within sustainable levels or not more than 50 percent of gross domestic product.

Teves, however, said rating firms could be "a little more lenient" to the Philippines provided the government would be able to sustain efforts to improve fiscal conditions.

"The human mind can change. When they (officials of Moody's Investors Service) told us that perhaps they can make adjustments, it's in their minds that we have done something good," he said.

The government's debt stood at more than 70 percent of the country's GDP last year, but Teves said the ratio was seen to drop to 68 percent by the end of 2006.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that the national government's debt reached P3.954 trillion as of end August. Of the amount, domestic obligations accounted for P2.23 trillion, while foreign liabilities amounted to P2.291 trillion.

The finance chief said ratings agencies might be convinced to give the Philippines an upgrade if its economic fundamentals continued to improve even if debt levels were not immediately reduced to 50 percent of GDP.

According to the country's fiscal targets, government liabilities are expected to drop to 55 percent of the GDP by 2008, and to below 50 percent of GDP by 2010.

Teves said given the high debt level that the Philippines was coming from, the government's ability to sustain debt reduction might be enough for the country to get a ratings upgrade.

Moody's Investors Service representatives are currently in the country for the regular assessment of the country's economic and fiscal climate. The review will be the basis for its decision on whether to upgrade the country's credit rating, which is currently four notches below investment grade.

ABS-CBN to start study on digital TV broadcast

By Riza T. Olchondra

ABS-CBN BROADCASTING CORP. will set aside P1 billion of its 2007 budget for preparatory works involved in the network's plan to go into digital TV broadcasting, vice president and chief financial officer Miguel Jose Navarette said.

The company will conduct a study next year on the prospects of digital TV broadcasting in the country.

The network's chair and chief executive officer Gabby Lopez said last October that ABS-CBN would embark on a digital TV project starting 2007.

Lopez had said the project might include the distribution of special set top boxes for decoding digital programming, worth P1,000 each, in test markets.

The move could make the network a trailblazer in the emerging digital TV market, way ahead of the government's 2015 target of a complete phaseout of analog TV broadcasting.

The National Telecommunications Commission's (NTC) earlier said it would stop accepting license applications of analog TV after Dec. 31, 2008.

ABS-CBN has applied for a digital television-terrestrial service (DTT) license with the NTC. The license will enable the network to offer digital television programming and interactive services, such as choose-your-own-ending.

But before investing in digital broadcasting equipment and making digital content, networks have to study the emerging markets first, Navarette said.

Poro Point back to normal

OPERATIONS AT PORO POINT Seaport is back to normal despite pending legal issues and concern over the negative implications of the government's move against the operator of the facility.

Emmanuel Moran Jr., president of Poro Point Industrial Corp., said this noting that port users had returned to Poro Point.

He said level of business activity at the port was not close to the pre-August 2006 levels.

Port operations stopped on Aug. 5, 2006 following an attempted forcible take over of the port by armed operatives of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, BCDA subsidiary Poro Point Management Corp. and the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA).

The facility remained close for a few weeks following a protracted legal conflict after the said agencies refused to honor court orders directing a halt to the take over bid.

Moran said the appropriate complaints had been filed against various government officials before the Ombudsman and the Court of Appeals (CA). The cases are currently being heard.

Moran said a writ of preliminary injunction issued by the CA against a cease-and-desist order by the Environmental Management Bureau has helped the port to return to normal business operations.

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Understand the risks for acquiring the HPV infection that can lead to cervical cancer and be in a better position to discuss the disease with your daughter.

Acknowledge the truth. In the Philippines, cervical cancer was the second leading cause of cancer death in women in 2004.[3] In 2005, 7,277 new cases and 3,807 deaths due to cervical cancer were estimated to have occurred (approximately 10 Filipino women deaths each day due to cervical cancer).[3]

Reach out to other mothers. You can help prevent the development of cervical cancer or better yet help protect other people's daughters by spreading this information.

Discuss prevention. Your Ob-Gynecologist or your daughter's Pediatrician can discuss ways to help prevent cervical cancer.

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PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Developer hopeful for RP property industry in 2007

By Charles E. Buban

A STEADILY STRENGTHENING overseas Filipino workers (OFW) market, an increasing number of foreign retirees settling in the Philippines and a continuing offer of attractive financing schemes to both developers and home buyers have brightened the future of the country's property industry. This was reported by one of the leading players in the mass housing industry that has projects located in selected key cities and provinces nationwide.

"Developers have noted the continuing attempts by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council to streamline regulatory requirements for housing projects and together with the current developments happening in the industry, especially the extremely low interest rates and up to 30 years buyer's financing of Pag-Ibig Fund. I believe 2007 is much brighter not only for us but for the rest of developers as well," said Marilu Alferez, senior vice president and general manager of Robinsons Homes Inc.

The RHI, the housing subsidiary of real estate giant Robinsons Land Corp., now has projects located in Antipolo City, several municipalities in Cavite, Angeles City and Mabalacat in Pampanga, Batangas City and Tagaytay City, Davao City and Cagayan de Oro City.

New fiscal year

On Dec. 11, RHI will mark the start of its new fiscal year. "Business has been growing steadily for the past six years. Since being established in 1994, we have launched 21 projects offering socialized, economic, mid-cost and high-end residential development. We expect ourselves to continue providing high-quality communities and better home packages in the next fiscal year," promised Alferez.

Among the strategies Alferez shared included would be for RHI to continue its lots only (with option for housing) offerings, development of more upscale projects, with mid-cost projects retained as main business, and the accelerated acquisition of land properties via joint venture.

"In fact, the company recently signed five joint-venture agreements with prominent property owners in San Fernando City and Angeles City in Pampanga, Laoag City in Ilocos Norte and Vigan City in Ilocos Sur to develop mid-cost residential projects that would be launched very soón," reported Alferez.

Int'l presence

Also mentioned as part of the company's strategy for next year would be pursuing "lifestyle/leisure" type of development, such as retirement havens and beach resort villages and expansion of local and international presence.

"In fact, we have opened up representative offices in Milan in Italy and London in Great Britain as well as expanded broker network in the Middle East. We will also open one in Spain and Germany within the current fiscal year," Alferez added.

She acknowledged that the OFW market is hot that many of them are making deals right after visiting RHI road shows (or at least their representatives have reported after visiting the actual site). "Indeed, there's never been a better time to purchase properties in the Philippines. The economy is getting better and better, interest rates are at a low rate over all, the inventory of homes is fairly high, and prices are stable. It truly is a home buyers market," Alferez assured.

AYALA Land Premier officers and construction team partners perform a ceremonial top-off at the 17th floor of One Serendra's Phase 2A development.

One Serendra marks construction milestones

AYALA LAND PREMIER, THE Philippines' pre-eminent real estate developer, recently celebrated two milestones for its landmark project One Serendra, the innovative residential garden condominium being developed in Bonifacio Global City.

Top executives from Ayala Land Premier joined various construction partners in simple rites commemorating the momentous topping off of One Serendra's Phase 2A, comprising Sections B and C of the development, and the achievement of 6 million safe man-hours. In attendance were representatives from One Serendra's project architect GF & Partners, structural designer Aromin and Sy, general contractor EEI Corp. and project manager Design Coordinates Inc.

The topping off heralds the completion of Phase 2A's structure, with only the buildings' finishing works left to accomplish. "We are very much on track with our construction schedule," reports architect Reynaldo Cruz, EEI project director for One Serendra. "We are already turning over Phase 1 units early next year, and we expect to complete phase 2A by July after this topping off." Excavation of Phase 2B has also begun.

Committed to safety

The achievement of 6 Million Safe Man-Hours recognizes the dedication of Ayala Land Premier's partners to the security and safety of workers even as the project goes into full swing. "We are as committed to safety as we are to delivering top-quality projects on time," shares engineer Richard Yap, division manager of Ayala Land Premier's Construction Management Group. "Complying with safety regulations is a team effort, and we credit not only our crew for their dedication but also our partners and suppliers for their continued trust and support."

"We're very happy to note that despite the simultaneous construction of the different phases of One Serendra, the safety of the workers is not compromised," says Ruel Bautista, head of Ayala Land Premier's Construction Management Group. "The safety of all the people involved in the construction is as valuable to us as being able to deliver these projects on time, and we commend EEI Corp. for helping us to achieve this."

Unique community

One Serendra offers a refreshing spin to metropolitan living, a unique residential community that offers suburban pleasures and urban conveniences. This masterplanned community harmonizes the tra-

ONE/ B7

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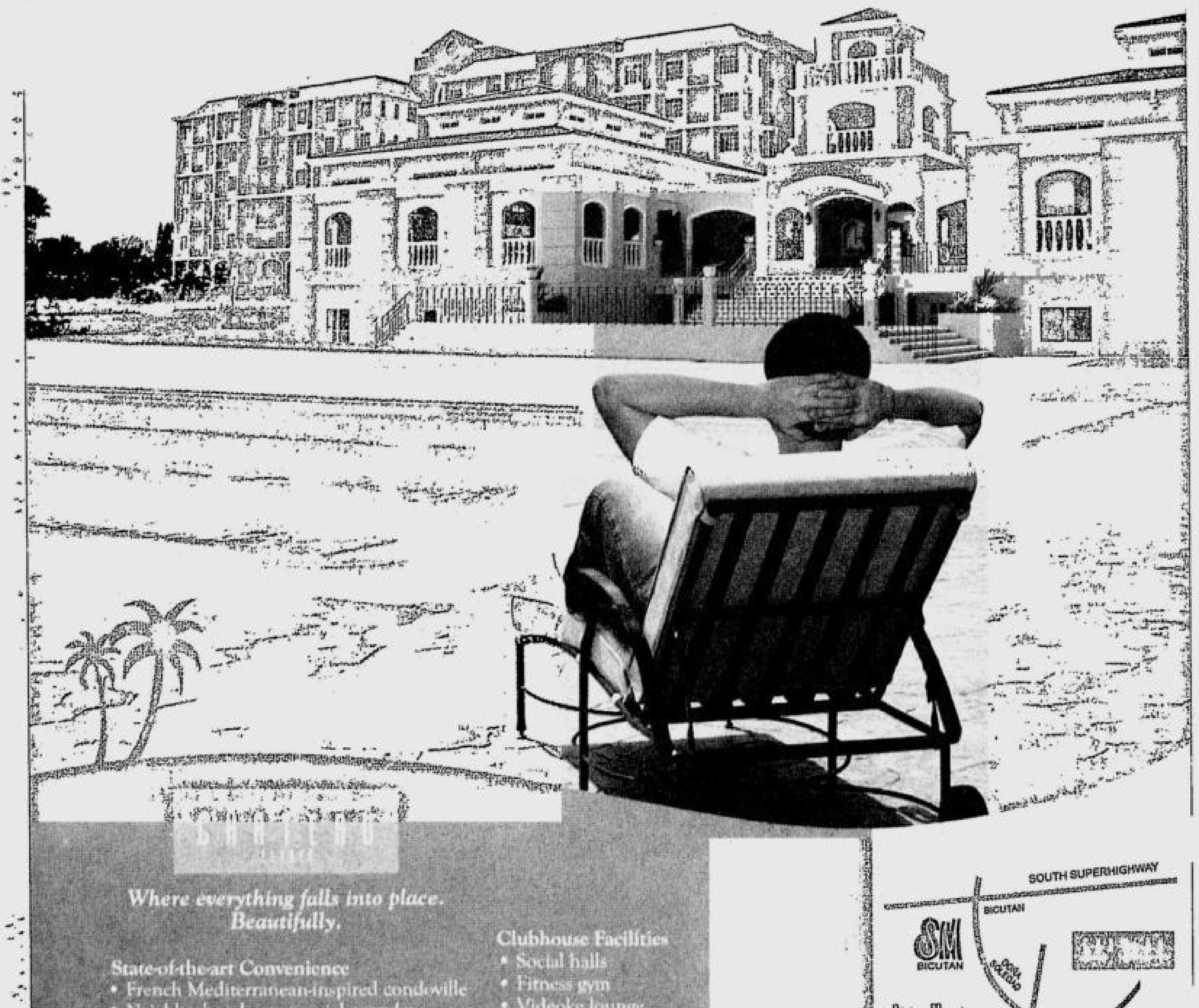

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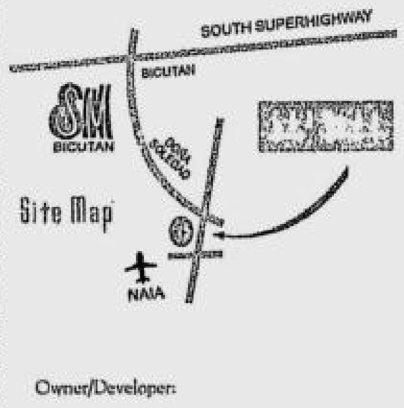


Owner/Developer:
SM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

12 Reasons to Move to Canyon Ranch

Major cities lure residents with its thrilling, fast-paced lifestyle. Over the years, urbanites have learned to deal with the traffic and pollution of Metro Manila in exchange for the convenience of being close to business and commercial establishments, recreational and transportation facilities and entertainment hubs.

Century Properties, the largest privately owned real estate company in the Philippines and the visionary developer behind pioneering projects such as **Essensa East Forbes** (dubbed as the Best Residential Building in the Philippines by Asiaweek), **South of Market** at the Fort, the country's FIRST Fully-Fitted, Fully-Furnished residential high-rise, **Grand Soho Makati** at the heart of the Makati Golden Triangle, the only Fully-Fitted, Fully-Furnished condo that offers residents three exceptional design options and **Soho Central**, the country's FIRST ever transportation-oriented residential development, set its sights on Carmona, Cavite as the location of what is now the fastest selling community in the South - **Canyon Ranch. A masterplanned, Wi-Fi integrated community** which boasts of modern lifestyle amenities and facilities with the beauty and tranquility of California Ranch Style suburban living. Canyon Ranch has been voted **Most Outstanding Private Residential Community of the Year.**

Here are 12 reasons why coming home to Canyon Ranch may just be the right choice for *your* lifestyle.

1. Surging "Second Cities"

It is a worldwide phenomenon. According to Newsweek International, because of the surge of new technology and infrastructure, the coming years will see the rise of the second cities or regional hubs, resort districts and provincial capitals. In the Philippines, the last three decades have seen a surge of progress in Southern Luzon collectively known as CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon).

2. Proximity to Hospitals, Schools and Shopping Destinations

The South is being dubbed the New University Belt with Brent International School and De La Salle University among the area's prominent academic institutions. World-Class healthcare facilities such as the Asian Hospital and Medical center provide excellent services and immediate medical response. Shopping destinations include SM City Dasmarinas, Alabang Town Center and Filinvest Mall.

3. Commercial, Business and Industrial hub

To date, there are approximately 975 commercial and financial establishments in the municipality of Carmona alone. Eight industrial estates, ranging from 9-100 hectares, make Carmona a desirable industrial host for foreign and local investors. These industrial estates are complete with amenities and in close coordination with the municipal government through the Carmona Business Club and other agencies.

4. Stable and Progressive Economy

To promote a more "business friendly environment", the municipal government formulates steps to streamline the application and processing of different permits in the Municipal Hall of Carmona, along with user-friendly websites for the convenience of investors.

5. Proximity to the City

Carmona is just 25 minutes away from the Makati Central Business District, making city-life easily accessible for residents of Canyon Ranch.

6. Multi-modal Transportation Infrastructure

The rehabilitation of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) from six to eight lanes, with a budget of 10 billion pesos, and the construction of expansive railroad networks (Future South Rail) provide an excellent link to the South.

7. Great Golf Destinations

Of the 19 golf destinations featured in WOW Philippines, 8 are from this part of the country. With courses designed by golf greats such as Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer, be amazed at the variety of golfing enclaves that are proud sites of some of the most prestigious international and local tournaments such as The Riviera, The Orchard, and Manila Southwoods.

8. Proximity to the Best Vacation Hot Spots

The country's top tourist destinations such as Tagaytay, Laguna and Batangas are within minutes from Canyon Ranch.

9. Peace and Order

Carmona is a peaceful town with one of the lowest crime rates in the country and a crime solution efficiency rate of 90%.This yields a greater sense of personal safety and security.

10. Unique recreational facilities

Integrated within the sprawling 77-hectare San Lazaro Leisure Park, home owners at Canyon Ranch have access to an array of sports, leisure, and entertainment activities. Residents can enjoy the sight of thoroughbreds racing from their backyards.

11. Cooler climate

The flatland of the city acts as a "heat basin", trapping humidity, while the rolling terrain of Canyon Ranch provides its residents with cool and breezy weather all year round.

12. Live closer to nature

Canyon Ranch offers a 360-degree view of vast waters and lush mountains, including the hills of Antipolo, Laguna de Bay, Mt. Banahaw and Mt. Makiling.

For more information on Canyon Ranch, please call 818-9025, 893-7050 and 0915-700-2000; or log on to www.canyonranch.com.ph.

ADVT.

Active design and green architecture

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

THERE ARE TWO BASIC SYSTEMS that control indoor temperature, thus affecting the comfort of building occupants. One is through the architectural or passive design and the other is through the mechanical or active design. As discussed in the previous article, passive design refers to building design that does not require mechanical equipment for heating or cooling. In contrast, active design refers to the use of artificial environment technology to heat, cool or light a space.

Passive design deals directly with the building envelope (meaning, exterior walls, doors, windows, roof), how it is oriented in relation to the solar path, what materials are used, what external features such as landscaping are utilized to cut down on energy. Active design, on the other hand is a general term that is used to denote the mechanical and electrical system of a building. This may include air conditioning, artificial lighting, elevators, escalators, pumps and fans.

Many of these mechanical systems have been in use for many decades now. The new breed of equipment today has innovative features that set them apart from their earlier models. This development evolved partly as a result of the financial benefits gained by building owners and developers by using green technology and also because of the growing awareness to protect the environment.

Air conditioning

Today's air-conditioning equipment are designed to be much more energy efficient. They are designed to respond to the actual needs of building occupants. Working in combination with computers that manage energy use, cooling load is provided where it is needed, at the right cooling power, at the right time, all done automatically.

A building that is thermally uncomfortable where occupants feel excessively cold or warm is inefficient in the use of energy. An energy-efficient air-conditioning system cools a given area using the right amount of energy without sacrificing the comfort level of occupants.

Air conditioning systems in green buildings are not designed simply to cool a room or space. For auditoriums, conference areas and similar types of spaces, green air conditioning can detect if there is a build-up of carbon dioxide in the room. When this happens, it automatically brings in fresh air to replace stale air. Carbon dioxide is a colorless, odorless gas that accumulates in large assembly places and is responsible for making people drowsy or sleepy.

Car parks, especially those in basements, benefit from the use of carbon monoxide detectors. Fresh air is automatically introduced in the parking areas to counter the lethal effect of carbon dioxide.

Underfloor air conditioning

An innovative feature of air conditioning for green buildings is the underfloor air distribution system. The system locates the air supply vents at the floor and the return air at the ceiling. The conditioned air from the equipment enters the space between the access floor and the concrete floor slab creating a continuous plenum. From the floor the air rises into the working area of each worker through diffusers directly on the floor. As the air moves, it gathers heat from the workers, computers and lighting, etc. until it is exhausted out of the room.

This system allows flexibility for the worker since he has direct thermal control over his work area. He/she simply transfers the floor diffusers to where he/she wants to move. The system is known to save energy and deliver fresh mountain quality air into the space. The system also allows easy maintenance since it is possible to vacuum and clean the plenum. This is not the case with the conventional overhead metal air ducts where dust and all kinds of construction debris tend to accumulate. In most cases, these ducts are not cleaned at all, thus causing respiratory diseases and other ailments.

Lighting

After air conditioning, which consumes about 60 percent of the energy load of a typical building, lighting is the next big energy guzzler, which accounts for about 20 percent of the energy consumed in a building. Green buildings use not only energy-efficient lighting and electronic ballasts but also devices such as ultrasonic occupancy sensors. These devices work on the principle of movement within a given space. When no motion is detected after some time, the lights automatically go off. This is especially useful in public areas like hallways and toilets.

Photocells or light sensors in combination with passive design features like daylighting also help reduce energy use. During the day as illumination inside the room varies from morning until evening, light sensors adjust the light automatically, by providing illumination where it is needed. To illustrate, lighting that is farthest from the windows are turned on first before those near windows.

Task lighting is also an effective way to conserve energy. Instead of lighting up the entire room, lighting is directly installed just above each workstation's table to increase the lighting requirement and convenience.

Conveying systems

Aside from scheduling the operation of elevators and escalators at specific times of the day like rush hours, most vertical conveyors feature human-responsive sensors that are applied in the start/stop control system to reduce energy consumption. Escalators stop when no one uses them, and in the case of elevators, things such as their lights, fans and motors, shut down when not in use.

To enable the conveyor systems for airport terminals save energy, the carousel or conveyor system for luggage stops operation when no luggage is added. This is in contrast to the typical system in traditional airports where the carousel turns around and around even if no new luggage has been placed on the conveyor belt.

Solar architecture

The use of solar technology in buildings and homes can make a significant contribution in the conservation of natural resources. It is now gaining more and more adherents as financial and environmental benefits become more apparent. Unfortunately, cost considerations continue to prevent full acceptance of the system even in many developed countries. Many experts believe, however, that future buildings with solar technology will cease to be the exception but will be the rule.

Most of the said active design systems are now typical features of green buildings in major cities in Southeast Asia. The owners, architects, builders and developers of these green buildings are aware of the many financial, health and environmental benefits that are derived by incorporating both passive and active design systems. It is time for us to catch up with this growing green development.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.

Manhattan Garden City reshapes Araneta Center

MANHATTAN Garden City will bring a strong residential component at the Araneta Center.

STARTED A FEW YEARS AGO WITH the completion of the stylish Gateway Mall, Araneta Center's push to become a modern 21st century city haven is shifting into high gear with the launch of exciting business-oriented and innovative residential components.

As its initial foray into the rapidly expanding business process outsourcing (BPO) sector, the Araneta Group is developing 11 low-rise buildings that specially cater to the industry's requirements. The buildings are spread over seven hectares at the corner of Edsa and P. Tuazon and will cost about P3.8 billion over the next few years. Currently, the Araneta Center hosts leading BPO firm Accenture Philippines, which leased four floors at the Gateway Mall.

Residential condo dev't

The Araneta Center's drive to become a business district will be complemented by a strong residential condominium development, with the launch of Manhattan Garden City. The project covers five hectares of the 35-hectare Araneta Center, with a total of 20 residential buildings slated to be built in the more peaceful northeastern portion of the prime property.

To ensure the residential component's success, the Araneta Group partnered with Megaworld Corp., the country's top high-rise residential condominium developer, to develop Manhattan Garden City. The name of course draws inspiration from New York City's world-famous skyline. The garden city concept, meanwhile, imbues residents with a feel of nature throughout the project.

Megaworld chair and president Andrew Tan proudly declared, "With our excellent track record in developing modern townships such as Eastwood City, Manhattan Garden City will surely reshape the landscape of Araneta Center. We are offering investors a good opportunity to live, shop and move like no other due to the project's various advantages."

Choices

First, Tan is referring to the stylish condominium units of Manhattan Parkway Residence, the first three towers to rise at Manhattan Garden City. Investors can choose among studio units, one-bedroom and two-bedroom affairs with outstanding views of UP and Ateneo campuses up north, the Antipolo hills to the east, the Makati skyline to the south and the tranquil Manila Bay to the west.

Second, Manhattan residents will have top choices for leisurely shopping and casual dining at the Manhattan retail arcade, just an elevator ride from their plush residences. Of course, a wider array of choices awaits them at the Gateway Mall, including top restaurants Cibo, Italianni's and Super Bowl of China. Over at the Big Dome's Coliseum Circle, they can take a break from shopping or have a hearty meal over coffee after the day's main event at Starbucks, Coffee Bean, and Dencio's.

Garden walkway

Manhattan's privileged residents can move, relax and entertain friends at the garden walkway—a 729-meter field of greenery and resort-style amenities such as a lap pool, landscaped sun deck and basketball court. It is lushly landscaped and provides easy access to the Manhattan grand transfer pavilion, through which they can easily move to any point of the metropolis via Manhattan's direct connection to the LRT2 and MRT3 lines.

From the outside, Manhattan Garden City's fluid and dynamic façade jibes well with the Araneta Group's masterplan for the Araneta Center as an emerging business and residential district. Tan concurred, "Megaworld sees Manhattan Garden City as an integral part of the new Araneta Center. Thus, we're bringing international standards and designs that will surely appeal to investors and will reflect the luxurious lifestyle of our residents."

To see for yourself how the Manhattan Garden City is shaping the residential landscape within the Araneta Center's business and shopping destinations, visit the Manhattan Garden City showroom at the 3rd level of Gateway Mall. You may also e-mail inquire@themanhattangardencity.com.

India's global giant to build int'l city in RP

A NEW DELHI-BASED GLOBAL conglomerate is building a multibillion-dollar international city in the Philippines to cater to the world's ballooning second-home market.

Zoom Developers (P) Ltd. has tapped the services of the country's top architectural firm Palafox Associates to handle the master and urban planning requirements of the project, which involves some 10,000 hectares near Metro Manila.

International city

"Aside from second homes or vacation houses for various nationalities, this international city will have complete facilities that will serve the needs of the residents, including health, education and even employment," said Zoom Developers chief executive officer for infrastructure Rumneek Bawa.

"Our plan includes the construction of an industrial park as employment hub, a 6-star hotel and an international convention center as part of its many world-class facilities, virtually making the project a tourism-related enterprise," Bawa added.

He said Zoom Developers recently signed an agreement with an existing firm in the Philippines to implement the project under a joint venture, which was brokered by Leon Katz, president of the US-based Commercial Brokers Inc.

Katz said Palafox Associates had also been tapped by Zoom Developers for its other projects in India and China using Filipino manpower.

Zoom Developers has 8,000 employees of 19 different nationalities in four continents—North America, Europe, Middle East, and Africa.

10th host country

With this international city project of Zoom Developers, the Philippines becomes the 10th host country of its global operations after United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, Mauritius and Zimbabwe.

The company is engaged in large-scale production of cement, steel, aluminum and other construction materials as it is engaged in engineering, information technology, infrastructure and real estate development, among others.

Bawa said his company decided to expand into the Philippines, specifically in property development for the global second-home market, after meeting with the Barlin Group of Companies in Hong Kong last September.

Headed by Filipino-American Susan Barlin as chief executive officer, the Barlin Group is promoting the Philippines worldwide as the top global second-home destination in Asia.

The group is staging the Asian International Real Estate Expo and Conference (Aireec) specifically targeted at the world's amazingly huge number of second-home buyers. Aireec is the first-ever exposition and conference of the international real estate industry to be held in Asia.

Aireec will be held at the Philippine International Convention Center on Dec. 6-10, 2007. Prior to this, the Barlin Group is staging the "Roadshow sa Manila" at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel on Jan. 16-18.

Living in masterplanned community

AVIDA LAND'S ABILITY TO INTRODUCE NEW living standards outside Metro Manila is again evident in San Rafael Estates Phase 2, a residential community situated at the foot of Mt. Makiling in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

In this 11-hectare community where established couples and small business owners reside, baptisms and birthday parties are now taking place at a social center that residents are learning to fully appreciate—the Mediterranean-themed community clubhouse. Thanks to the various completed amenities, homeowners need not go far to indulge in leisure and recreational activities. The clubhouse swimming pool, basketball court, jogging path and play area are just a few minutes away from most of the homes in the neighborhood.

The residents can now appreciate the clubhouse both as the focal point of the community and a venue for every family, according to Borj Lejano, project development group manager of Avida Land. Aside from its resort-like amenities, San Rafael Estates Phase 2 offers residents 24/7 security, perimeter fences, adequate power and water supply.

Like all Avida Land communities, San Rafael Estates Phase 2 adheres to a masterplan which is initially enforced by Avida Land's own village manager, and later transferred to a homeowners' association. Adherence to the masterplan is Avida Land's guarantee that the village will remain an attractive and orderly community, and is certain to increase in value over the long term.

This, in addition to other features, has made the place attractive to residents of Sto. Tomas as well as from nearby Calamba. Majority of the units offered are lots-only packages with an average cut of 225 square meters, though the relatively flat terrain can accommodate housing units offered using the TEX building system technology that Avida Land uses for its house-and-lot packages. San Rafael Estates Phase 2 lots range from 170 to 480 sq m, and are priced at P5,250 per sq m.

San Rafael Estates Phase 2 is around two hours drive away from Metro Manila. From the national highway, it can be accessed through the 20-meter spine road or through the San Antonio Barangay Road. San Rafael Estates, is a joint development of Avida Land Corp. with partners Greenfield Development Corp. and Batangas Assets Corp.

HOMES are built around courtyards to allow more interaction among residents and for security.

One Serendra marks . . .

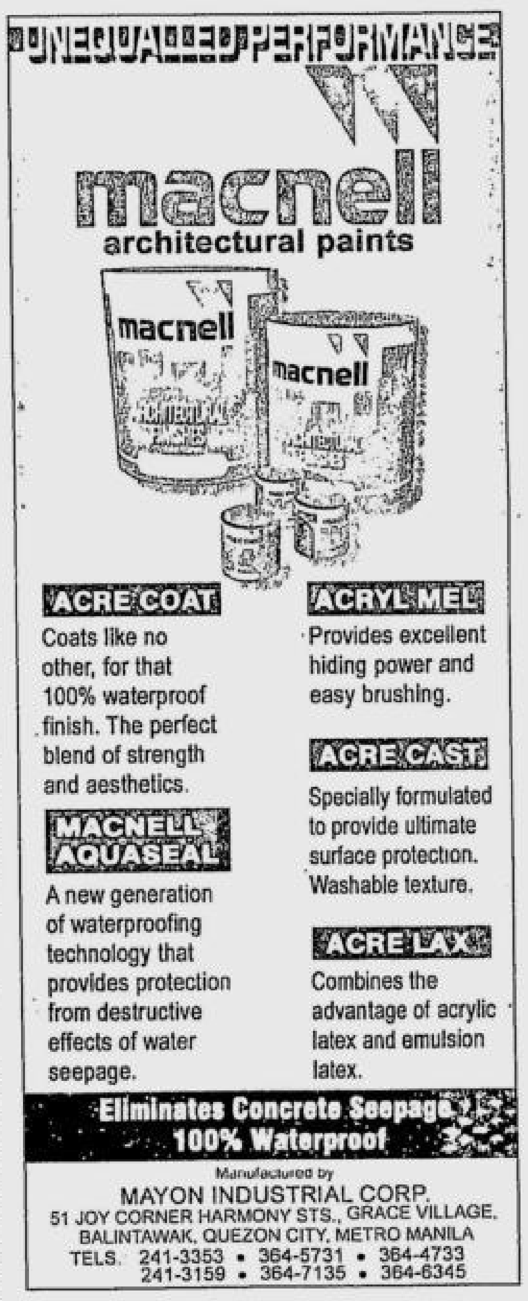
From page B6

ditional Filipino *bahay-na-bato* architecture and European low- to mid-rise housing designs. The look is anchored on open spaces and greenery, which makes up about 65 percent of the development, giving One Serendra a sprawling, spacious feel for a truly unique condominium living experience. In addition, One Serendra's unit layouts offer genuine spaciousness inside and out.

Living in this suburban haven does not mean being far from the conveniences of city life. The quaint Shops at Serendra is a promenade of one-of-a-kind establishments, cafés and restaurants, providing the perfect place to shop, dine or unwind. One Serendra's choice location also makes it accessible from work destinations within Bonifacio Global City, and the Makati Central Business District.

One Serendra certainly embodies luxury, privacy and ultimate comfort—the hallmarks of an Ayala Land Premier development. It continues Ayala Land's trademark legacy of enhancing the residents' quality of life with its portfolio of prime locations, prime customer care and property management.

To know more about making your home at One Serendra, visit One Serendra model units at the Sales Pavilion on 26th Street, Bonifacio Global City every day from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. You may also visit www.oneserendra.com.



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Jeepney drivers bare their secret in keeping the wheels turning

FOR JEEPNEY DRIVERS, THE EXHAUSTING daily grind of plying the choked roads of Metro Manila is a routine they don't seem to mind. They know for a fact that this is part and parcel of meeting their boundary which at the end of the day brings food on the family table.

"Napakahirap na trabaho ang pagiging driver (Being a jeepney driver is indeed a difficult job!)," opines Felix Salas, a driver of 10 years. "Iba't-ibang sakit ng katawan ang mararamdam mo araw-araw. (You experience different physical challenges on a daily basis.)"

Salas paints a picture of the grueling life that many jeepney drivers lead. He relates, "Pagkabangon ko ng alas kwatro, byahe agad. (I get up at 4 a.m. and immediately set out for the road.)" After a brief meal in the afternoon, he returns for more hours of driving.

Benjamin Jose, also driver for 10 years, shares, "Labindalawang oras ako nagmamaneho araw-araw. Nakakapagod talaga. (I drive for 12 hours daily. And it can really get tiring.)" Jose points out that cutting his hours on the road would mean slashing the daily income. Thus, in spite of the fatigue it brings, he still chooses to stay on the road to provide for his family.

So how are they able to keep working for long hours?

Experience has taught these road warriors that there's always a way to meet these challenges. These jeepney drivers from Pasig bared a coping secret - they attest to the fact that drinking milk has always been a surefire way to help them sustain the demands of long-haul trips. In fact, a favorite among them is a regular can of Bear Brand Sterilized, which they say not only aids in their recovery from exhaustion but also helps keep them alert on the road.

FELIX D. SALAS
TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS 20,000
GRAND PRIZE WINNER
JEEPNEY

GABBY Posadas, Nestlé Philippine marketing promotions and events, beverages and adult nutrition manager (right) presents the P20,000 cash prize to jeepney driver Benjamin Jose.

"Hindi ako umiinom at naninigarilyo. (I do not drink and smoke.)," relates Salas. "Umiinom din ako ng Bear Brand Sterilized kasi bukod sa nagpapalakas ito, nakakatulong din kapag nagsisimula na akong mapagod kapag gumagabi na. (I also drink healthy beverages such as Bear Brand Sterilized because it keeps me energized. It not only keeps me strong but also helps me regain my strength when my energy dwindles at day's end.)" He also shares that unlike energy drinks, milk has no side effects.

Fellow Pasig driver Mario Delfin shares Salas' view on Bear Brand Sterilized: "Panlaban sa pagod ang Bear Brand Sterilized, kaya ako umiinom nito ng tatlong beses isang araw. (Bear Brand Sterilized effectively fights exhaustion. This is why I drink it thrice a day.)"

Jose reveals, "Noong bata pa ako umiinom na ako ng gatas. Ngayon umiinom pa rin ako kasi naniniwala akong nakakapagpalakas ito. Pati mga anak regular kong pinapainom ng gatas. Gusto ko ituloy nila ito hanggang tumanda sila. (I have been drinking milk since I was young and even though I am an adult now, milk still helps me stay healthy and strong. This habit is something I make sure my kids take with them as they grow up.)"

He adds, "Bukod sa nakakapagpalakas ng katawan ang gatas, binibigyan din ako nito ng resistensya para makasama ko ang pamilya ko. Gusto ko may lakas pa rin ako para sa pamilya ko pagkatapos ng trabaho. (I know milk keeps me strong, which is why I drink Bear Brand Sterilized regularly. It also gives me enough energy to spend time with my family after working. After all, after a long, tiring day of driving, I still want to have the energy to spend a happy time with my family.)"

PHILAM PLANS HONORS QUIZ BEE WINNERS

Just recently, Philam Plans Inc (PPI), the leader in providing pension, education and life/memorial plans in the country, was a major sponsor of the recently-concluded 27th National Quiz Bee (NQB) and presented the award to the winners of the General Information Category (College Level). Photo shows PPI president and CEO Jack I. Howell (3rd from left) together with Category Champion Rae Emmanuel Echaveria (2nd from left) of the University of the Philippines in the Visayas and Runner-Up Rafel Kim Tiu of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Muntinlupa during the Finals and Awards Night at the Philam Life Theater. Also in photo are PPI SAVP and OIC head, sales division Rico T. Bautista and PPI marketing officer Chickie Laurente.

JARDINE INKS AGREEMENT WITH CEREXAGRI

Jardine Distribution Inc, (JDist), one of the country's leading marketing companies engaged in the distribution of various agricultural chemicals and construction products, recently signed an agreement with CerexAgri of France to exclusively market Vondozeb Fungicide in the Philippines. Vondozeb is a well known fungicide brand used in vegetable farms and plantations all over the world to control various plant diseases. Shown signing the agreement are from left, Jovy Vilvestre, JDist senior product manager, Mauro Barbari, CerexAgri director for international sales, Edwin H. Hernandez, JDist general manager and Pierre Bavencoffe, CerexAgri area sales director for the Asia and Pacific Region.

METROBANK BAGS AWARD

Founding Anniversary

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (Metrobank), the country's largest bank in assets, was recognized as Best Performing Government Securities Dealer in the Secondary Market by the Bureau of the Treasury. This is the second year in a row that the bank has been recognized for its exemplary performance in Philippines securities dealership. Metrobank also placed second in Best Overall Government Securities Dealership. Department of Finance secretary Margarito B. Teves (left) and National Treasurer Omar T. Cruz (right) presented the award to Metrobank senior executive vice president Edmund A. Go and Metrobank senior vice president Mariquita L. Agena.

TRI-WORLD PIANO RECITAL, MUSICAL VARIETY SHOW

Music is a wonderful gift to the youth, a truly gift of love that inspired Tri-World to provide music studio for the youth to achieve their dream. Tri-World Piano Center will have its 4th Annual Student Recital and Musical Variety Show at SM Megamall Bldg. B 4th Level, on Dec. 10, at 2 p.m. Pianos are heirloom materials although they are slightly used pianos. After re-varnishing and tuning, these imported pianos can sell at a slightly lower price than that of brand new counterparts. These imported pianos from the United States and Japan are high in quality compared from other local brands because of their unique design and technology. Tri-World sells slightly used grand pianos and upright pianos Kawai, Yamaha, Diapason and others. Tri-World Piano Center is operated by Dr. Cesar V. Panganiban, a pediatrician and his wife, Dra. Gilda Panganiban, a dentist. Photo shows Dr. C. Panganiban, Dra. G. Panganiban, children Cesar Jr., Krischelle Bradley and Katrina.

Bits & Clips

Club Manila East's Kiddie Christmas treat

COME AND BE PART OF CLUB MANILA EAST'S KIDDIE Christmas Treat: magic, bubbles, puppets, mascots, balloons on Dec. 10, Sunday, at CME Resort, Km. 24 Manila East Road, Taytay, Rizal. Enjoy free entrance into the resort if you bring Christmas goodies or toys (minimum of 1 gift per person, please do not wrap your gifts for segregation). This is for the benefit of GMA7 Kapuso Foundation Give a Gift Program. Bring your friends and the whole family, have fun and at the same time do something worthwhile for the less fortunate kids of our country. There will be a Kiddie show at 2 p.m. with magic, bubbles, puppets, balloon twisting, and mascots. Check out www.clubmanilaeast.com for more details about the facilities and services CME offers.

HP makes your wish list come true

GRAB THE CHANCE TO SLASH HALF OF YOUR HOLIDAY SPENDING AT THE HP Christmas Wish List Sale! From Dec. 8 to 10, HP continues the thrilling tradition of offering 50 percent discounts on HP consumer products. Desktops, notebooks, and pocket PCs will be up for grabs at the SM Megamall, 4th Level Bridgeway (near Cyberzone). That's not all. With each purchase of an HP product featured at the HP Christmas Wish List Sale, you get a chance to receive a 50 percent rebate on your purchase and other exciting prizes. Purchases can be paid in 6 to 12 easy monthly installments at an unbelievable zero interest rate.

Seminar marks book release

ANVIL PUBLISHING INC AND PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER INVITE ALL CAMPUS journalists in the high school and college levels and their moderators to a seminar entitled "The Art & Science of Asking, Delivering the News, The Inquirer Way" on Dec. 9 at Powerbooks Greenbelt 4 from 1 to 3 p.m. The seminar marks the release of the book Youngblood 3, the latest edition to the best-selling series of the same title. Intersted parties may call Anvil Publishing, 747-1622 for reservations.

RHS '66 celebrates Ruby Anniversary

WITH THE THEME 'TGIF: THANK GOD IT'S FORTY YEARS', RIZAL HIGH School Batch '66 will celebrate its 40th (Ruby) Anniversary on Dec. 9, 3 p.m. to 12 midnight at the RHS Museum and Alumni Center, 3rd floor, RHS Campus Pasig City. For more details on the homecoming, call DBP senior vice president Rosalina de la Paz-Magat at 892-2127 or 0917-535-2394.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
INSURANCE COMMISSION
1071 United Nations Avenue
Manila

Head Office:
P O Box 3590 Manila
Fax No 522 14 34
Tel Nos 523-84-61 to 70
E-mail oic@i-manila.com.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Insurance Commission and DBP Data Center, Inc. (DCI) are inviting interested suppliers for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of information and Communication Technology (ICT) Resources:

Lot Code	Lot Description	Approved Budget*
D1	Supply and install System Furniture and Filing Cabinets at Data Center, IT Office and IT Conference Room	900,000.00
D2	Supply and install Raised Flooring System (for Data Center)	350,000.00
D3	Supply and install Fire Suppression and Detection System (for Data Center)	1,300,000.00
D4	Supply and install Access Control System and Video Surveillance Systems (for Data Center and IT Office)	1,000,000.00
D5	Supply and install Climate Control System (for Data Center and IT Office)	1,200,000.00
D6	Supply and install Uninterruptible Power Supply and Electrical Components (for Data Center, IT Office and IT Conference Room)	3,400,000.00
D7	Supply and install 120 kVA Generator System with Automatic Transfer Switch	2,000,000.00
D8	Supply and install Wall Partitions, Door Panels, and other related services (for Data Center and IT Office)	850,000.00
D9	Supply and install Dot Matrix Printers	860,000.00
* Inclusive of 12% VAT	TOTAL	11,860,000.00

Schedule of Activities:

Issuance of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents	December 12-18, 2006
Pre-Bidding Conference at Insurance Commission, 1071 United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila	December 15 at 9:30 a.m.
Submission and Opening of Eligibility, Technical and Financial Envelopes at Insurance Commission	December 28, 2006 at 9:30 a.m.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Only Bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure.

Interested suppliers may request detailed project description and budget per lot from the BAC Secretariat, Ms. Rosalyn Tanagras (Phone 848-0277) starting on December 12, 2006. A non-refundable fee will be charged depending on the item/s the prospective bidders intends to bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Requirements/Check, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its amended Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A).

The Insurance Commission and DBP Data Center, Inc. reserve the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure, waive any required formality therein or award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Insurance Commission without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) PAMELA F. PITAS
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - December 9, 2006)

Lectures on 'Jade Artifacts Found at Philippine Sites'

THE WG SOLHEIM II FOUNDation for Philippine Archaeology Inc cordially invites you to their lectures on "Jade Artifacts Found at Philippine Sites" to be held at the Seminar Room of the Ortigas Foundation Library, 2nd Floor, Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City (across the street from the Meralco Bldg.) on the Dec. 9 (Saturday).

If you are interested in archaeology and its related disciplines, do join them at the Solheim Foundation, as they warmly welcome you to attend the Annual General Meeting at 1 p.m. at the Ortigas Foundation Library. The lectures (Power Point presentations) will immediately follow at 3 p.m. (45 minutes per speaker). Speakers and their topics are as follows:

Cynthia O. Valdes (president of the Solheim Foundation and trustee, UP Archaeological Studies Program Advisory Council). Her topic will be on "Jades in Old Archaeological Records" (from Beyer's Batangas Finds [1930s to 1940s] to Fox's Tabon Cave Complex [1960s to 1970s] and including more recent finds from sites in Batangas: Ulilang Bundok and Kay Daing [1990s]).

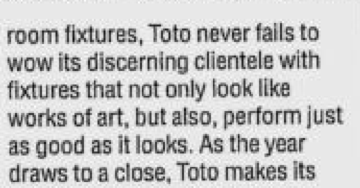
Dr. Eusebio Z. Dizon (Archaeology Division, National Museum) who will speak on "Updates on the Batanes Jade Workshop Sites".

Dr. Victor J. Paz (director of the UP Archaeological Studies Program) will speak on "Situating Jade in Palawan Sites".

Admission Fees: P100; P50 for Solheim Foundation members and students. For further information: Call Cynthia Valdes at 842-0329 or e-mail: covaldes@zpdee.net or visit the website: www.solheim-foundation.ph or call Andrea Ragrario at the UP ASP tel. no. 924-1836.

ProductFILES

Savanna, Toto's sensor faucet



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Republic of the Philippines
VALENCIA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Valencia City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The VALENCIA CITY WATER DISTRICT invites interested parties to submit sealed bids for bidding of the following to wit:

Item	Particulars	Quantity	Schedule Pre-qualification	Schedule Bidding
Security Guards	8 hrs/shift	19 guards	Dec. 21, 2006 @ 8:30 a.m.	11:00 p.m.

* Bidding price is based on PADPAO Rate

Interested parties may secure checklist of pre-qualification requirements from the BAC Secretariat at Valencia City Water District, Hagkol, Valencia City until December 21, 2006.

The VCWD reserves the right to reject any of all bids without offering any reason, and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to VCWD. The VCWD likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids, nor does not guarantees that the awards shall be made.

Prepared by
(Sgd.) SHELITA M. DEIPARINE
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

Noted and approved by:
(Sgd.) RUEL P. PADREQUIL
General Manager

(PDI - December 9 2006)

Meat processors denounce pork smuggling from China

THE LARGEST GROUP OF MEAT processors in the country condemned yesterday the rampant smuggling of pork from China, allegedly perpetrated by a Pampanga-based meat company.

In a statement, the Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc (Pampi) asked the Department of Agriculture to conduct an impartial investigation on the smuggling from China of 62,000 kilos of meat shipments amounting PhP12 million, which ended up in a warehouse in Pampanga province.

The agriculture department bans the importation of meat products from China, which remains to be declared free from the contagious foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) afflicting Chinese livestock.

Despite the ban, shipments of hot meat from China continue to flood the local market, threatening both the local hog industry and the meat-processing sector. In September this year, four reefer vans containing smuggled meat products disappeared from the warehouse of the Bureau of Customs, only to be later recovered in Pampanga.

Pampi issued the statement after the Philippine National Police - Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) raided the Kayabe ice plant and cold storage in Barangay Lagundi in Mexico town, Pampanga province in the morning of Nov. 28, Tuesday.

Authorities discovered the missing meat products, believed to have been pilfered from the four reefer vans earlier seized by PNP. The raid in Mexico town yielded an estimated 62,000 kilos of meat that could have been contaminated with FMD.

Inside the cold storage, the operatives met with Alan David, believed to be the owner of the facility and a certain Adrian Garcia, without allowing other people to get in.

Mar Cunanan, operations supervisor of Kayabe, identified the owner of the questionable meat as a certain Polintan, which is believed to be the alias used by Garcia, whose family runs a popular hotdog manufacturing company in Pampanga.

Pampi expressed fear of a whitewash in the police investigation, as the raid involved a four-hour closed-door meeting between the supposed investigators and owners of the meat plant. "During that negotiation or meeting, the media were barred from the entering the cold storage," witnesses said.

Pampi said it condemns in the strongest terms possible this unlawful activity by people who want to earn fast bucks at the expense of local livestock industry, without considering the safety of the Filipino consumers.

Fearing of a whitewash in the police investigation, Pampi called on Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap to initiate an impartial investigation on the case. "We urge Secretary Arthur Yap to name the perpetrators, and not just the crime committed," Pampi said.

The local hog raisers group also threatened to stage a pig holiday during the Christmas season, if the government agency cannot get to the bottom of the pork smuggling case.

SECURITY BANK

PRIME PROPERTY FOR SEALED BIDDING

Description : Residential Property
Address : No. 234 Recoletos St.
Urdaneta Village
Makati City
Lot Area : 1,136 sq. m.
Minimum Bid Price : P40.0MM

(Sale is on "as-is-where-is" basis, subject to bidding rules and regulations)

Interested parties may submit their sealed bid together with signed sealed bid rules and regulations to Property Management Division, 9th Floor, SBC Centre, 6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Deadline for submission is on December 15, 2006, 4:00 p.m. Bidders &/or representatives are enjoined to witness the opening of the bid thereafter.

"The Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids anytime prior to award, without incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders"

For further details, bidding rules and regulations, please call 888-7712 to 14.

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(PDI–Dec. 2 & 9, 2006)

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Republic of the Philippines

PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY

(Public Estates Authority)
7/F Legaspi Towers 200 Bldg., 107 Paseo de Roxas St., Legaspi Village, 1226 City of Makati
Tel. Nos. (02) 817-4711 to 13; (02) 813-1441 to 45; Facsimile No. (02)815-2662
Website: www.pea.gov.ph

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS

The **PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY (PRA)** is inviting interested parties to submit proposals for the negotiated sale and/or lease of the following properties on a serviced land basis (major roads and tapping points for utilities are available), located at the Central Business Park 1 A, Bay City (formerly known as Boulevard 2000), Pasay City, for mixed use or commercial development purposes.

BLK	LOT	DESCR	AREA* (m²)	MODE
A1	1	corner	3,843	SALE ONLY
A2	1	corner	3,462	SALE ONLY
A2	2	interior	2,568	SALE ONLY
A2	3	interior	2,611	SALE ONLY
A2	4	interior	2,573	SALE ONLY
A2	5	corner	3,321	SALE ONLY
A3	1	corner	2,500	SALE ONLY
A3	2	interior	2,222	SALE ONLY
B4			6,452	SALE OR LEASE
B7			5,221	SALE OR LEASE
B5			18,481	SALE OR LEASE
TOTAL			53,254	

* Subject to final survey

1. Sealed and properly labeled Prequalification and Proposal Envelopes may be submitted to:

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO
PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
Subject: NEGOTIATED SALE AND/OR LEASE
CBP 1 A PROPERTIES

Proposal/s for a particular property shall be accepted as long as the subject property is still available for disposition or has not been previously awarded.

a. **Prequalification Envelope, sealed and labeled must contain the following legal documents:**
   1) Individuals: birth certificate duly authenticated by the local civil registrar or NSO or certificate of naturalization or passport to prove the Philippine citizenship and that he are at least 21 years of age. (for sale and lease)
   2) Government corporations (including LGU)/government financial institutions: certified true copy of the charter creating the corporation or other incorporation papers from the SEC and other documents to prove that it is a government owned or controlled corporation (for sale and lease).
   3) Partnership/corporation/association: DTI/SEC registration and certification that the partnership/corporation/association is at least 60% owned by citizens of the Philippines and organized and registered under Philippine Laws. (for lease only)
   4) 2005 income tax returns or 2005 certificate of compensation payment/tax withheld in cases of employees, 2005 business tax returns and latest valid tax clearance issued by the BIR must be submitted to prove the full and timely payment of taxes, per Executive Order No. 398 (for sale and lease).

b. Proposal envelope/s for each property, sealed and properly labeled as to the block/lot number of the property and the proposed mode of acquisition (i.e., cash sale, lease) and must include the corresponding **tender deposit/s** in the form of a cashier's or manager's check payable to **PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY** and drawn from any universal bank. • Sale offer: at least 10% of total offer •Lease offer: equivalent to at least three (3) months lease for the property. Interested parties may submit proposals for several properties.

2. Only pre-qualified offerors shall be invited for negotiation.
3. Copies of the Technical Information and Development Guidelines may be obtained from the Marketing Department, 7th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati MM from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) in cash or Manager's/Cashier's Check payable to **PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY.**
4. Material misrepresentation and/or breach of warranty made in the Prequalification Documents and Proposal shall cause the forfeiture of the tender deposit in favor of the PRA. The forfeiture of the Tender Deposit shall not bar the PRA from pursuing all other remedies available under applicable laws.
5. PRA reserves the right to reject any proposal or waive any defects or formality, impose additional terms and conditions and accept the proposal most advantageous to the Government.

For further information, inquiries may be made to the Marketing Department in the above address and at telephone numbers 817-4711 to 13 (trunk line) and 813-7104 and 817-2335 (direct lines).

(Sgd.) SILVESTRE H. BELLO III
General Manager/CEO

DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES AND RESTRICTIONS

- Development within the properties must conform to the **Boulevard 2000 Integrated Framework Plan**; the **CBP 1 A Association's (Landowners) Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions Relating to Land Development and Building Construction, Design Standards and Guidelines and related Rules and Regulations** specially on the maximum allowable building height, floor area ratio (FAR), land uses, limited access, among others and those which may be promulgated by PRA for mixed commercial/residential development of Subject Properties. They contain the site plan, restrictions, encumbrances and/or easements to guide the Buyer/Lessee in developing the Subject Properties. These documents are available upon payment of a non-refundable amount of fee of PESOS: FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) in cash or Manager's/Cashier's Check payable to the **PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY.**
- Other applicable laws, government rules and regulations must also be complied with.
- Only lots B4, B7 and B5 will be offered for sale or lease. All lots in Block A will be offered for sale.
- The internal road in Superblock A (block A1, lot 1; block A2, lots 1,2,3,4 and 5 and Block A3, lots 1 and 2) will be completed after two years from the date of execution of sales documents.

QUALIFIED BUYERS/LESSEES

- Sale:
  - Any Filipino citizen, of legal age who has the capacity to enter into contract/s; and
  - Any government owned or controlled corporations and any government financial institution or any public corporation, which has complied with the requirements established by PEA for this bidding.
- Lease:
  - Any Filipino citizen, of legal age who has the capacity to enter into contract/s; and
  - Any partnership, association or corporation, public or private of which at least 60% of the capital stock or of any interest in said capital stock belongs wholly to citizens of the Philippines and which is organized and constituted under the laws of the Philippines

(PDI – December 9, 2006)

INVITATION TO STUDY IN KOREA

COLLEGE STUDENTS/ COLLEGE GRADUATES

Who are willing to go to **Korea** to study the Korean language, culture and English teaching skills in Universities in Korea are invited to be trained for a call center/English on-line teaching career.

- The applicants who would complete the course in Korea can work as senior teachers in prominent Philippine based Korean call center.
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Hotline No. 8119797

UCPB

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Be it known that there is an outstanding warrant of arrest for **Ms. Evedin S. Vergara** of Blk. 82 Lot 43 Spirig St., BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City, whose picture appears below, that was issued by Branch 195, Regional Trial Court of Parañaque City in Criminal Case No. 06-0961 for Qualified Theft.

Please direct any information leading to her arrest or whereabouts to:

MR. FRANCISCO BACIERTO, JR.
Equitable PCI Tower 1, corner dela Costa and Makati Avenue, Makati City
Telephone Nos. 878-4425
or 840-7625

(PDI – Dec. 9, 2006)

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- Graduate of any four year course
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- Must have strong presentation skills

PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

- Graduate of any four year course
- With at least one (1) year experience in selling real estate properties
- Must have sold properties worth 1.5M and above
- Must have an established network of clients

Please submit your resumé with 2x2 picture @ 11/F BDO Plaza, #8737 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City and look for Ms. Vangie Ramos. You may also email your resumé at ehramos@lashaciendas.com.ph / vangieramOs@yahoo.com. For other details contact 8128490 or 8125059.

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Or submit to security guard of Port Royal Building, Rada St., Makati City

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- Excellent in both oral and written English communication

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Mast Raising Line 1-5/8"/Sling Line 2-1/4"/Lifting Line 2-3/4" under DB-630142
Approved Budget PHP 2,188,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Mr. Roderic R. Rosas** starting **November 29, 2006, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **December 13, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply and Materials Department, Ground Floor, Building 5 at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply and Materials Department Office Wall Clock Time) of December 20, 2006.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee II

(PDI–Dec. 9, 2006)

Our Dearly Beloved Tatay

ATTY. CORNELIO J. SILLANO

(April 1, 1931 – December 7, 2006)
of Pasay City and Guiguinto, Bulacan

Now rest peacefully in the infinite warmth and embrace of the Lord at the age of 75.

He is survived by his wife **Allela G. Abada**

His children:
Arch, Cornelio Jr., Atty. Luis Ch., Ceasar, Christopher Alexander and **Aristotle**;

His daughters-in-law:
Grace, Teresa, Anna Lissa, Teresita and **Marie Paz**;

His grandchildren: **Jullan Cornel, Grace Anne, Raymond Alizen, Manuel Alfonso, Trina Alisa, Maria Celisa, Miguel Rafael** (†), **Coralyn Anne, Aristotle Jr.**, and **Mikaela Maris**;

His brother, sisters, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and other relatives

His remains lie in state at Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Mckinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati.

His remains will be transferred to the family Estate, Alcor Reso, Tiaong, Guiguinto Bulacan in the afternoon of December 10, 2006, Sunday.

Necrological Services:

Saturday, December 9	7:00 P.M.	-	Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio
Wednesday, December 13	2:00 P.M.	-	Tiaong, Kapilya Nuestra Sra. del Rosario, Guiguinto Bulacan

Interment following the necrological services on Wednesday, December 13, 3:00 P.M. at the family Mausoleum, Endless Love Memorial Park, Guiguinto, Bulacan

---

Our Beloved "Boss"

RICARDO SO NG

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Peacefully joined the Lord
on December 5, 2006
at the age of 70.

His loving wife **Gloria**, children: **Rommel, Roman, Allan, Carol, Carina, Cecile, Russel, Rodel, Cheryl**, In-laws: **Marilyn, Shirley, Jayson, Johnson, Sheila, Julie Anne**, grandchildren: **Ryan, Ruth, Abby, Robee, Justin, Cathy, Carlo, Christian, Jasmine, Vincent, Tyn-Tyn, Kristel**, other relatives and friends, requests the pious readers to pray for his eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

His remains lie in state at **Chapel Oleander of The Sanctuarium**, 739 G. Araneta Ave., cor. Agno Ext'n. Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, December 13, 2006 at 10:45 a.m. at the **Ever Memorial Garden** in Valenzuela City.

In Loving Memory
31st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Doña Juana Tan Cancio

(June 24, 1915 - December 9, 1975)

On the occasion of the 31st Death Anniversary of the late Doña Juana Tan - Cancio, her family and friends will offer masses in the following parishes today, December 9, 2006:

MASS SCHEDULE

CHURCH	TIME
Chapel of Saints Pio and Philomena *Goodwill Corporate Center Building* *393 Senator Gil J. Puyat Avenue* *Makati City*	12:00 nn
Santuario de San Antonio *Mckinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City*	6:00 am
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish *N. Garcia corner Kalayaan Avenue Bel-Air II* *Makati City*	6:30 am
Sto. Domingo Church *National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary* *Quezon Avenue, Quezon City*	5:45 am
Sta. Teresita Parish *43 Kanlaon Street, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City*	6:00 am
St. John Bosco Parish *Arnaiz Street, Makati City, Metro Manila*	6:30 am
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish *M.H. Del Pilar corner A. Flores* *Ermita, Manila*	6:30 am

THE GOODWILL BOOKSTORE FAMILY, MANAGEMENT *AND* STAFF *WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PIOUS READERS TO PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HER SOUL.*

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

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Our Dearly Beloved

DRA. EMA AURORA LIM TAN

(June 21, 1941 - December 7, 2006)

Peacefully joined our Lord
on December 7, 2006 at the age of 65.

Her bereaved children **Christian & Gina, Shirley & Jocker** and **Richard & Billie**; grandchildren **Chrisdale, Christine & Christianne** and all the relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, December 12, 2006 at Eternal Gardens, Balintawak-EDSA Junction after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the bereaved family of the late

Filomena (Maming) Lao Lim

July 05, 1927 – November 29, 2006

would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our relatives and friends who offered Holy Mass, visited, kept vigil, sent flowers, financial assistance, message of sympathy and who in one way or the other condoled with us in our time of bereavement.

More Classified Ads:

National Food Authority A9
Insurance Commission B8
Valencia City Water District B8

In Loving Memory of

Richard Constantino Huenefeld

July 12, 1925 – December 9, 2005

First death anniversary

Joined his parents
Ewald† and Ines Constantino Huenefeld†

RH is sadly missed by

Wife
Alicia Pardiñas Buenaventura Huenefeld

only child
Mary Ann "Annie" Huenefeld

Wards
Ewald, Consuelo and Cristina

Grandchildren
Missy, Luke, Martin, Joseph, Anthony, Lorenzo, Stephanie, Shellanie,
Stephen†, Steven, Monique, Vanessa and Andrea

Grandson
Mark

Brothers
Charlie "Heini"† (Spain) and Hansadolf (Germany)

Nephews, nieces, cousins, relatives and friends

Canine friends Wolfie, Miko, Mago, Dackie and Pupet

Der Deutche Klub Members and Staff

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Sto. Domingo Bay Export and Richfeld Hemp Industries

"... I have always been happiest when I give... I came to Bicol in search of a dream,
I found it by the grace of God, my family, my faith, the beauty of the region I so love and its people.
This is the fortune I wish to leave behind, the lives I have touched, the people I have helped, my country,
industry, integrity, compassion, caring and my devotion to "Mama Mary".
I have lived a simple life with my family, this is my legacy...
this is how I wish to be remembered." – RH

---

*"I will save those who love me and will
protect those who acknowledge me as Lord."*
Ps. 91:14

Concepcion S. Joaquin

(March 27, 1920 - December 8, 2006)

Loving wife to **Dr. Maximo L. Joaquin, Sr.** (†) and mother to **Greg, Mac, Eppie, Max, Juliet, Polly** and their spouses, peacefully joined the Eternal Father before dawn on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The wake is at Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati until Sunday, December 10.

She will be brought to Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija on Monday, December 11. Interment will follow after the 9 a.m. mass on Wednesday, December 13.

**I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith** (2 Timothy 4)

At this most solemn time,
we, the Board of Directors, Management and Employees of
CONSOLIDATED TRAINING SYSTEMS, INC.,
convey our sincerest condolences
to the family of

CONCEPCION SALDAÑA JOAQUIN

who passed away at 03:00 AM, December 8, 2006.

Mother of our President & CEO, **Epifanio S. Joaquin**

Her remains lie in state at Capilla Del Señor
Santuario de San Antonio Parish
McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati
from December 8 to 10, 2006.

Her remains will be transferred
to the Family Residence in Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija
on December 11, where she will lie in state
until December 13, 2006. Funeral Mass will be celebrated
at 9:00 A.M., on December 13, 2006
at St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

Interment follows after the Mass.

Asean integration key to competing vs China

Prospects still uncertain due to political, economic issues

By Daxim L. Lucas

CEBU CITY—ONLY AN ECONOmically integrated Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) can hope to attract more of the foreign direct investment flows that are being cornered by China, according to businessmen familiar with the dynamics of the region.

At the same time, however, the prospects for creating a unified economic bloc in time for the 2015 target set by leaders of the 10 member-nations remain difficult due to prevailing politico-economic barriers.

"Economic integration is a daunting task for Asean countries," Economist Intelligence Unit editorial director Charles Goddard said in a briefing during the Asean Business and Investment Summit.

"The 2015 target is very optimistic, to say the least," he added, referring to the deadline set by members of the regional bloc for linking their economies through the elimination of intra-member trade barriers.

Goddard's skepticism toward the scheme was based, in part, on the group's weak record, so far, in implementing the provisions of the Asean Free Trade Agreement (Afta).

This deal, signed in 1992, calls for the gradual reduction of import duties imposed by Asean-member states on the goods of fellow member countries.

To date, however, implementation has been slow and trade barriers remain relatively high.

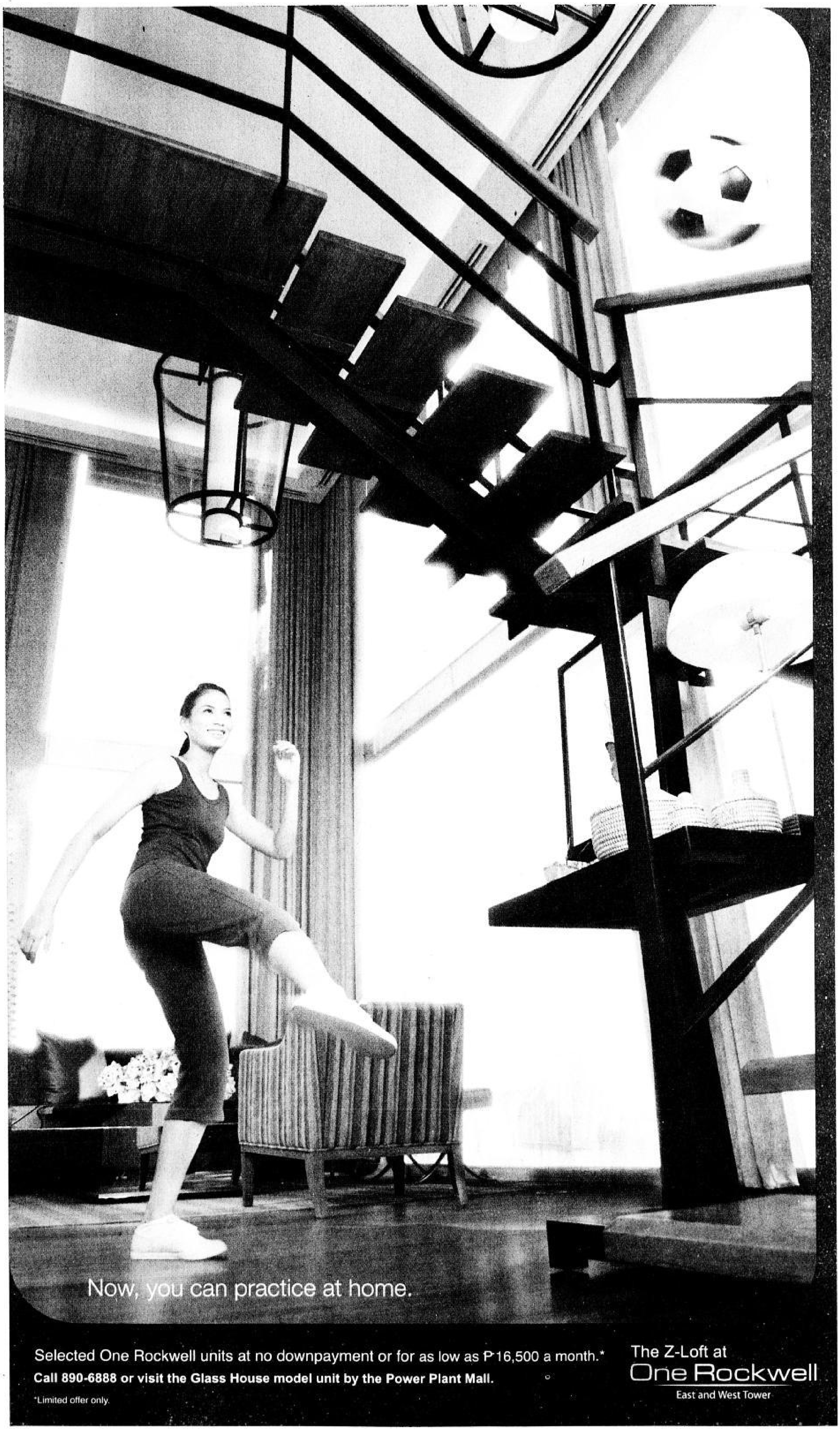
"We've all seen how difficult the implementation of Afta has been especially in lowering tariffs," Goddard said. "There's no reason to expect that this free trade agreement [as envisioned through an integrated regional economy] will do any better."

Despite this skepticism, businesses operating in the Asia-Pacific region continue to urge Asean to forge ahead with the plan to integrate the 10 diverse economies of the region to better compete for investment funds flowing into Asia.

For DHL Express Asia-Pacific CEO Scott Price, doing so was the only way the region could divert some of the estimated $100 billion in foreign direct investment that flows into China each year.

"There is a great sucking sound in Asia as China corners the bulk of investment flows into the region every year," he said, stressing that only by banding together can the region's economies create a market large enough to attract large-scale funders.

Individually, Asean countries may be too small to be noticed by investors in North America or Europe, but the region's combined 500-million population may be attractive enough to divert attention from China, especially for businesses in the consumer sector.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Go for 'local' cars, group urges buyers

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CEBU CITY—BUYERS WILL HAVE TO BE weaned from used imports for the local automotive sector to benefit from economic integration efforts being pushed in the Association of Southeast Asia Nations, according to an industry group.

Elizabeth H. Lee, president of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines or Campi, said in an interview that automotive sector integration would work for the country if exports could be balanced with imports from within the region.

Available data from the trade department show that local manufacturers ship out to markets in and beyond Southeast Asia some $1 billion worth of parts and about $500 million worth of completely built-up units (CBUs).

Ford Motor Co. Philippines, which is so far the country's only exporter of CBUs, ships out about 10,000 units yearly, which is barely a tenth of the total domestic sales which is mostly supplied from Thailand, other production hubs in Asia, and even some models made in Japan and the United States.

Domestic market expanding

Lee said an expansion of the domestic market, which would indicate stronger local assembly of CKD, was the best measure for the country's readiness for and taking advantage of regional integration.

Lee added that the Philippines actually has a sizeable market as indicated by new vehicle registrations that had reached some 200,000 units in 2005.

But she said more than half of these newly registered vehicles were used imports, as well as vehicles with locally manufactured bodies and reconditioned engines, such as jeeps.

"In other words, if we don't expand our domestic markets, the local industry cannot grow into the level of a significant exporter because investments like Ford's would not come," Lee said.

In a related matter, local auto parts makers yesterday pushed for a campaign for buyers to patronize locally assembled CKDs that have high levels of value-added local parts and labor in them as opposed to imported CBUs.

Eddie Jose, president of the Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (MVPMAP), said buying "Pinoy" vehicles would help auto parts makers in their drive for the renewal of the People's Car program.

The association has been pushing for the development of a so-called Philippine Utility Vehicle (PhUV), a multipurpose vehicle made with significant amounts of local parts and labor.

Jose explained that a PhUV program would entail the granting of various incentives not only to assemblers but also to buyers and local parts makers who participate in it.

"(Such program) is also expected to help the local auto industry break the 100,000-unit sales barrier in 2007, something not expected to be accomplished this year," he said.

Touted as a brand-new vehicle at a price of a used vehicle or about P350,000, the PhUV is mainly aimed at those who buy used imports.

'Pinoy' cars

According to the MVPMAP, the following "Pinoy" cars currently built from CKD kits should be patronized to pave the way for the PhUV:

- Honda's City, Civic, Accord and CRV.
- Isuzu's Crosswind, DMax, Fuego and Trooper.
- Kia's KC2700.
- Mazda's Mazda 3, Mazda 6 and Tribute.
- Mitsubishi's L300 FB/Versa Van/Chassis Cab, Adventure and Pajero (4x2/4x4).
- Nissan's Sentra (1.3L/1.6L), Cefiro and X-Trail and Frontier, Urvan and Patrol.
- Toyota's Vios , Corolla, Camry and Innova.

Models not mentioned apparently have very low local content or altogether brought in as CBU imports.

Jose said his group was optimistic that buying the "Pinoy" vehicles—and hopefully a realized PhUV—would "spark a revival" in the local auto industry.

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Editor Pam Pastor
Creative Director Tim Yap

Nu born

Photography: DANIEL TAN
Cover Star: 2006 NU Rock Awards revelers

It shook, it rattled, it rolled! NU Rock Awards 2006 page D2

Princess Bato Group, Yabang Pinoy, RockEd and Manila's Five Loveliest Rock the Republic page D2

Detox [illegible] this Christmas with [illegible]

Sink your feet into some art page D2

Domesticity is the newest form of self-expression [illegible]

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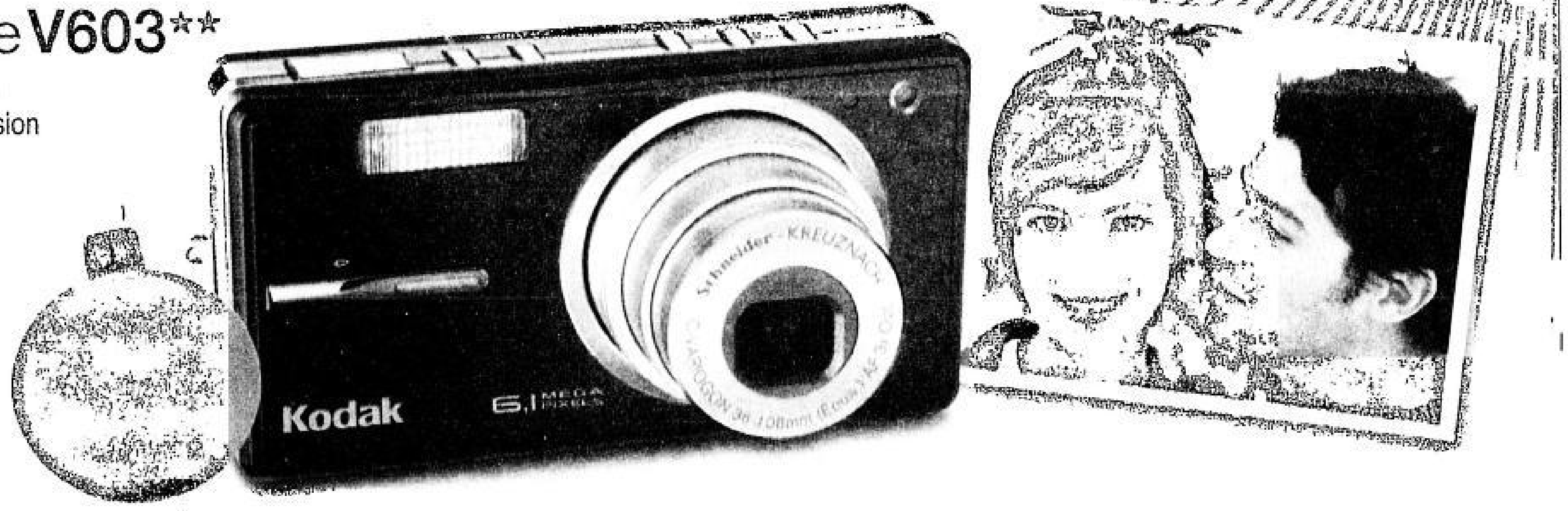

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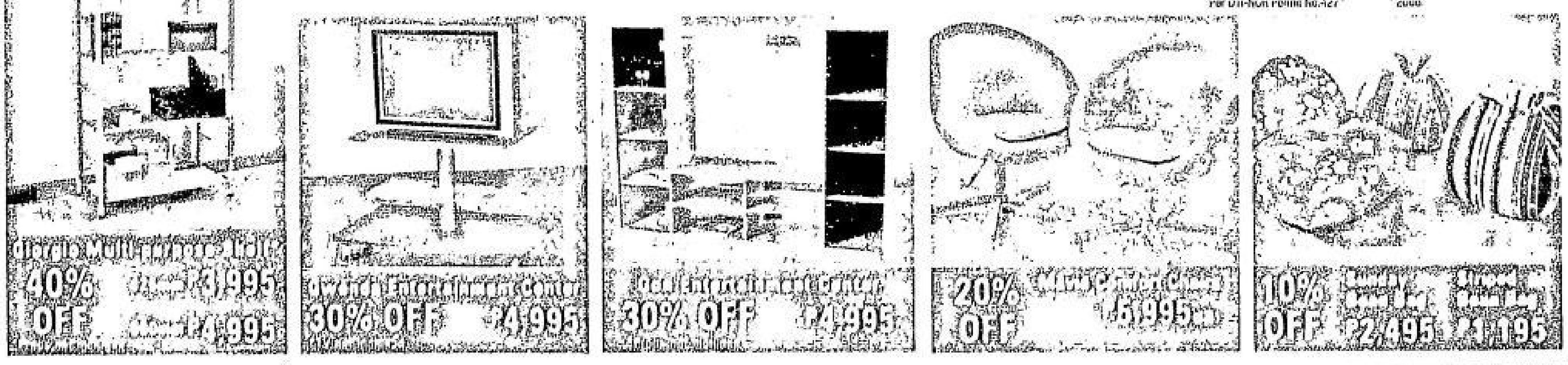

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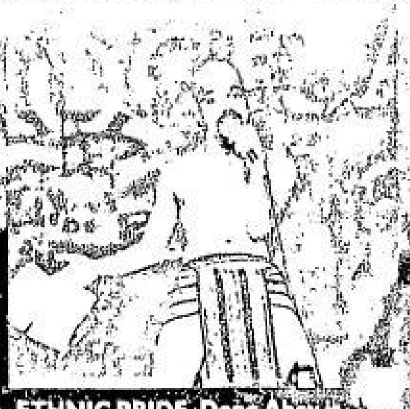
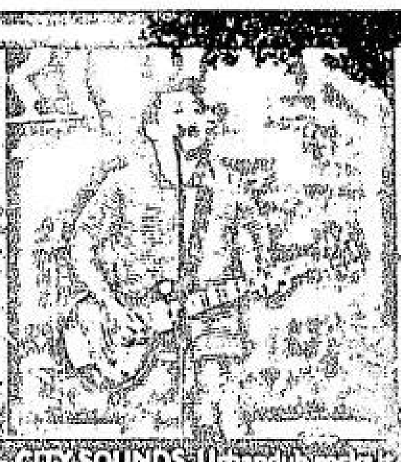
To which the girls exclaimed
'Pero bastos pa rin!'

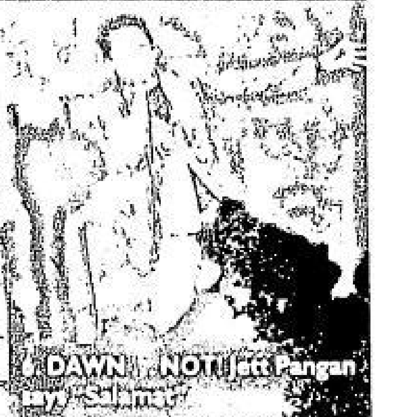
KAMIKAZEE SHOT. Jay and his band take home the big NU plum


ETHNIC PRIDE. Dong Abay is proud of his roots

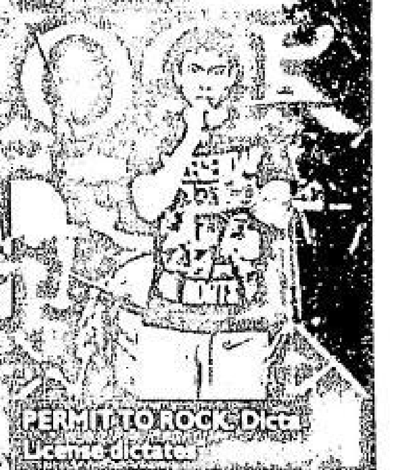
NEW BEGINNINGS. Ely Buendia is now a Pupil

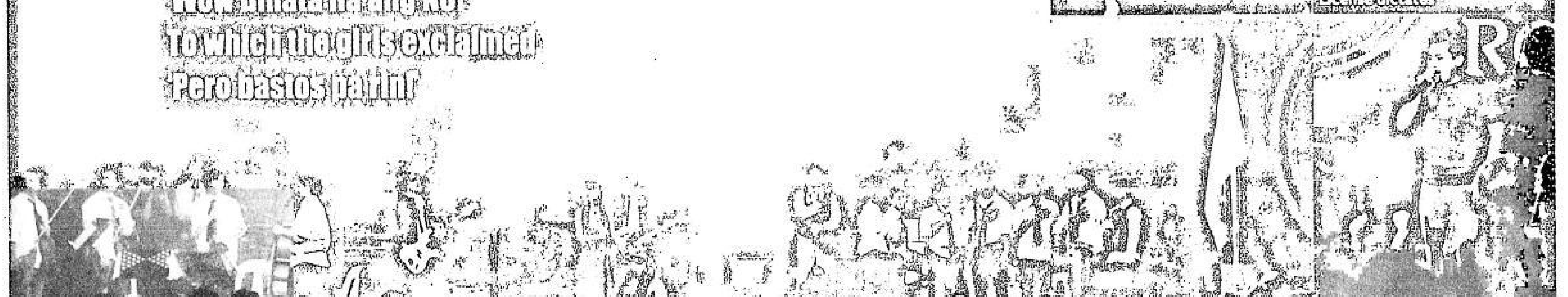

CITY SOUNDS. Urbandub rocks it

PARISH PET. Chito Miranda of Parolkya ni Edgar


DAWN NOT! Jett Pangan says "Salamat"

SANDWICH ME. Raimund Marasigan is best dressed


PERMIT TO ROCK. Dicta License dictates



OLD SCHOOL RULES. Papa Dom and Jamie Wilson

ATOMIC KITTENS. Atom Henares announces the final award.

SUPER TYPHOON. Rock till you drop

DJ RUSS and Angel Rivero's music mix

ROMULO RATES. Erwin Romulo ranks high

Photos by Eddie Boy Escudero and Daniel Tan

Tim Yap

NO STORM NOR ANY SUPERstitious belief could stop super station NU107 from staging their annual tribute to rock music's most vital players. Yes, the NU Rock Awards is on its 13th year, and post-puberty, it gets even better.

Typhoon "Reming" took a backseat to the mosh pit the rockers who worshipped their gods at the World Trade Center with a raised clenched fist and a Red Horse Beer in the other hand.

I hopped onto Atom the Great's (Atom Henares, Progressive Broadcasting president to others, rock lord to us) presidential lounge to find myself in a time warp. It was trippy getting drunk (at least I thought I was) with Jojo Alejar and the Apo Hiking Society on the same podium. "I grew up watching these guys!" I thought to myself as I did a "Tiger" dance move while singing "*Pumapatak na naman ang ulan sa bubong ng bahay*."

And then the parade of tipsy bombshells, starlets and starshells traipsing around the room right before they presented their respective awards distract you from the actual program. One of the performers was so distracted that he saw his band performing without him. "Hey, I'm supposed to be there!" he told me as he continued to focus on another's rock chick gone wild.

Musical history

Oh well, it happens every year. Then again, each year's energy is different from the last, so even to a Rock Awards diehard, the vibe never gets jaded. Pinoy rock is on an all-time high and you can totally feel it in the air. It was wild, yes. Jay of Kamikazee pounded the mic stand onstage and rocked it out loud. You could feel the respect being paid to the artists by the fans as musical historical figures graced the stage one by one, reminding the fans how Pinoy rock came to be.

As I was getting intoxicated and having my photos taken by Eddie Boy Escudero, I didn't get to pay attention to the program. I had to get the tidbits from Cris Hermosisima and the other NU jocks as they narrated the rock program. "The opening number was a medley by The Itchyworms with the Silent Sanctuary string section (the latter won this year's Raw Award), all in matching ties. Dong Abay performed in traditional Igorot garb, wild-eyed yet articulate."

"Lokomoty gave the audience classic rock hero poses. The best dressed band of the night though was Sandwich (wearing Andre and Daryl Chang goth-styled stuff), showing class and style as they roared across the stage with characteristic ferocity (guitarist Mong Alcaraz and bassist Myrene Academia were named the best on their given instruments). The Dawn performed a medley condensing 20 years of their existence in seven minutes and boasted an all-star line up of guest vocalists."

When it was time for Atom to be sandwiched by Joyce Jimenez, Katya Santos, Phoemela Baranda and Myles Hernandez, I said, "*Wow binata na ang NU!*" To which the girls exclaimed, "*Pero bastos pa rin!*" The audience could not agree more. Atom the Great gave a brief and inspired speech and reiterating what the nation knows as fact: NU107 is indeed the only home of Pinoy rockers. Borrowing from Sandwich, he raised his fist and saluted the rock community: "*Sugod mga kapatid!*"

On this page, a roll call of this year's rock royals.

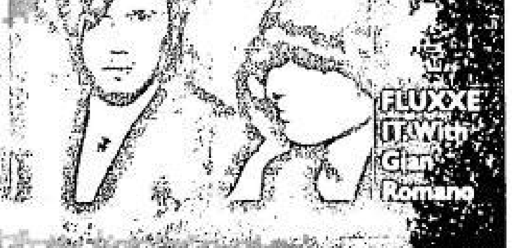
NU 07 ROCK AWARDS 2006 WINNER'S LIST

Best New Artist
Up dharma Down
Vocalist Of The Year
Gabby Alipe of Urbandub
Guitarist Of The Year
Mong Alcaraz of Sandwich & Chicosci
Bassist Of The Year
Myrene Academia of Sandwich & Imago
Drummer Of The Year
Jazz Nicolas of The Itchyworms
Best Live Act
Kamikazee
Rising Sun Award
The Itcyhworms
In The Raw Award
Silent Sanctuary
Song Of The Year
"Narda" By Kamikazee
Best Male Award
Mong Alcaraz of Sandwich & Chicosci
Best Female Award
Armi Millare of Up dharma Down
Album Of The Year
"Noontime Show" by The Ithcyworms
Artist Of The Year
Kamikazee
Best Music Video
"Sugod" by Sandwich
Best Album Packaging
Inksurge.com for "Five On The Floor" of Sandwich
Producer Of The Year
Raimund Marasigan, Buddy Zabala & The Ithcyworms for "Noontime Show" of The Itchyworms
Listener's Choice Award
Kamikazee
Hall Of Fame
The DJs Of DZRJ

ARTISTIC LICENSE. Borgy Manotoc and Ronnie Lazaro

DUSK TILL DAWN. Phoem Baranda and Jun Boy Leonor

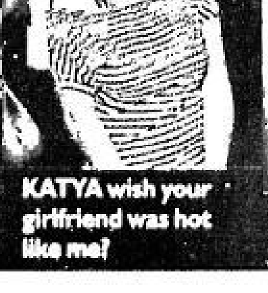
SOUND-BYTE. Steve Tirona and Kat Agarrado of Sinosikat


FLUXXE IT With Gian Romano

GREYHOUND DAY. Let's be bold, let's get bald

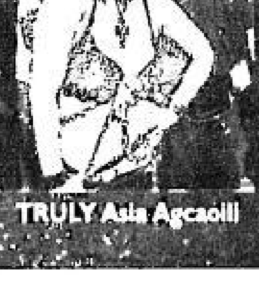
SCENES FROM THE 2006 NU ROCK AWARDS

EAT ME. My home of new rock!


KATYA wish your girlfriend was hot like me?

JOYCE Jimenez to the world

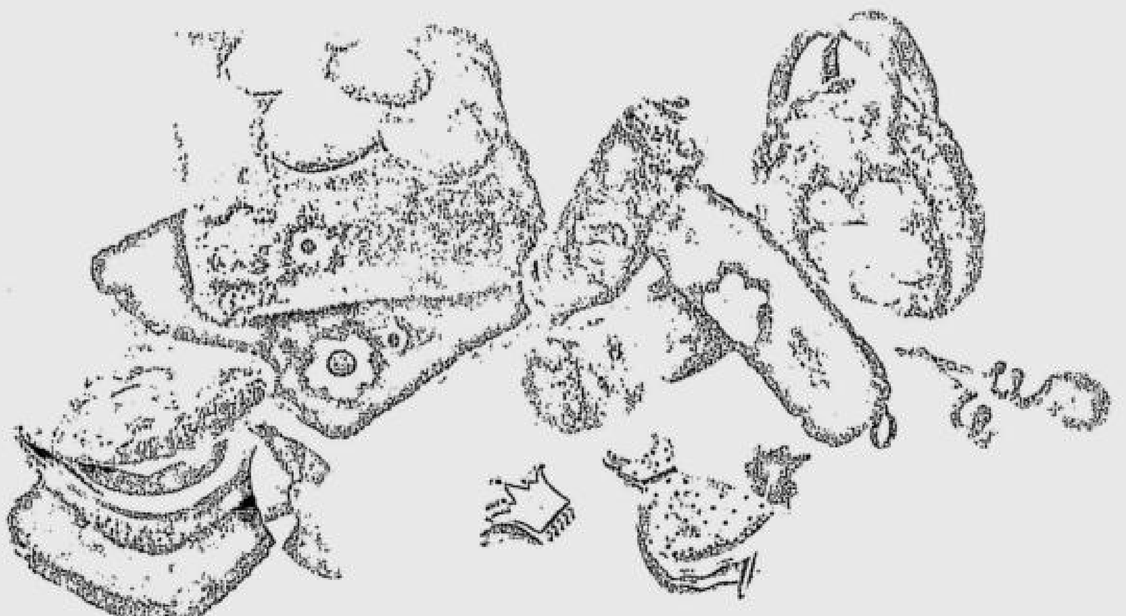
ALL THE WAY. With Jojo A


TRULY Asia Agcaoili

GO GABY de la Merced

LOCAL E. Erica Pared is back!

everyone has a gift to give



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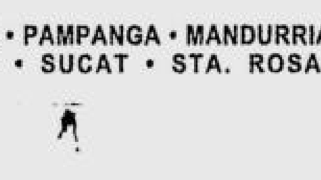
collection of plush stuff

oh so pretty
sugar 'n spice
from head to toe

furry friends
cute n' lovable
giftables for Christmas

groove to the rhythm
with raglans,
cargo pants, comfy
rubbers and hip
accessories



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BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARIÑAS • BATANGAS • DELGADO • SAN LAZARO • SUCAT • STA. ROSA • CLARK • MALL OF ASIA • LIPA

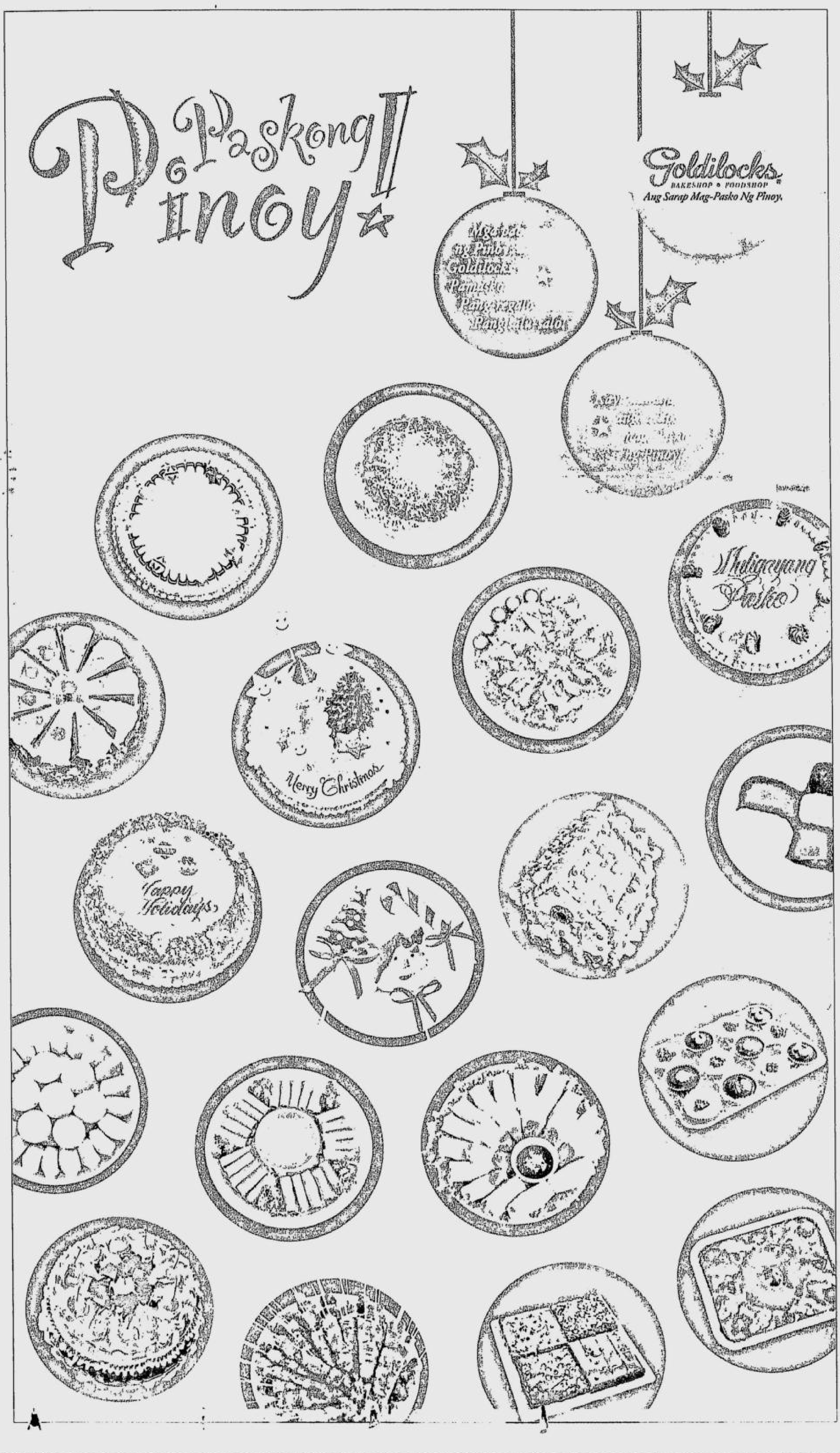
East meets West

ASIAN FASHION BRAND SAMUEL & KEVIN recently opened its flagship store in the Philippines located at the fourth floor of SM City North Edsa, ushering in an impressive range of fashionable and functional clothes and accessories that are guaranteed to appeal to the urban-stylish Pinoy.

The store carries a complete collection of Samuel & Kevin apparel and accessories that have become popular throughout the world because of their style, comfort and affordability.

Samuel & Kevin features clothes and accessories that offer cutting-edge fashion and functionality, quickly becoming the famous leisure clothing brand for young people. S&K draws inspiration for its designs by combining the best of the West and the East, to create an avant-garde lifestyle that simply oozes fashion.

With such an exciting range of stylish offerings that feature value for money, it certainly looks like Samuel & Kevin will be part of the Pinoy retail experience now and in the coming years.



Mighty mighty Bond

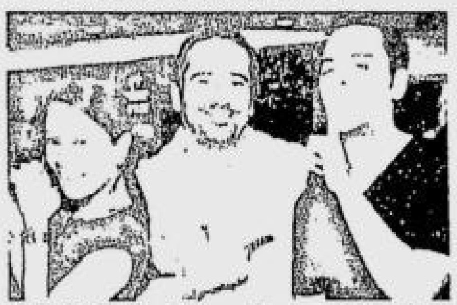
By David Milan

"SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED," THESE ARE the words that the world's most favorite secret agent uses every time he orders his drink of choice - a Smirnoff Vodka. In between his heart-stopping missions to cuddling with his Bond girls, 007 never fails to take a shot of his favorite drink. In celebration of the latest installment of the Bond Series, Smirnoff threw a special screening of Casino Royale that was held at Greenbelt 2.

After the movie, guests proceeded to Smirnoff's Casino Royale Martini After-Party at the Greenbelt 2 Strip. Partyphiles were served Smirnoff cocktails while they partied to DJ Manolet Dario's music. Host Corey Wills, who stepped into Daniel Craig's shoes for the evening, led the guests to play card games for a chance to win tickets to a Singaporean Cruise.

ABE CIPRIANO and Trina Ching

ANNA Corpuz and Stephen Ku

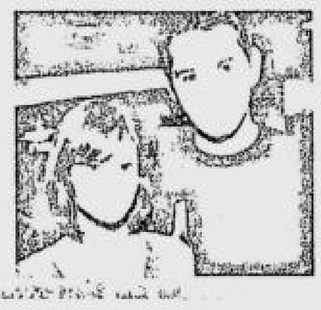


OSANG Yulo, Jacques Dupsquier and JM Rodriguez

KIT BARRAQUIAS and Brent Javier

MIKEE Carrion and Bianca Valerio

TINA Tinio and Tessa Dragon



BIANCA King and Raymond Gutierrez

Calling all Super! shoppers

YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EXPERIENCE will not be complete if you don't hit a bazaar or two.

And because HSBC wants you to enjoy stress-free shopping, they launched their Red is in Season promo.

Thanks to the promo, holders of HSBC's Red Mastercard get free entrance to selected bazaars.

Red Mastercard will also enjoy freebies—the latest issue of Marie Claire magazine or an HSBC tote bag—with a minimum P500 single-receipt purchase.

The promo has started already and will continue at Paskong Pinoy Grand Christmas Festival at Expo Center, Araneta Center, Cubao today and tomorrow; Dec. 9-10 and 16-17 again at Karl Edward International bazaar and at Christmas Gifts Expo at the Mega Trade Hall in SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City on Dec. 20-24.

Super

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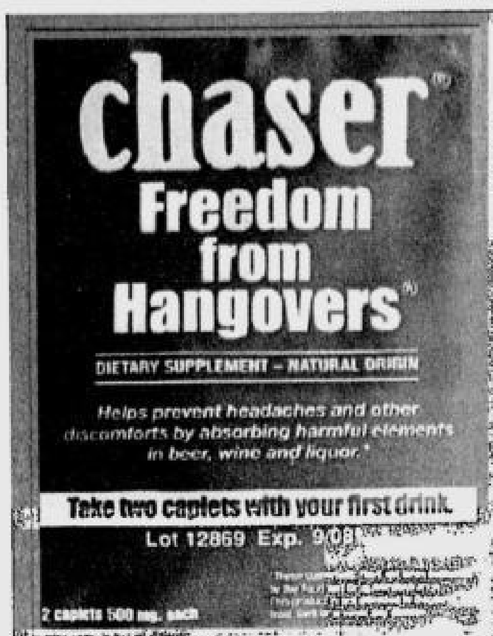
Have Christmas spirit, will detox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2 caplets 500 mg. each

HANGOVER free

By Tala Diaz

THOUGH IT'S TRUE THAT JINGLING bells, fruitcakes and flowering poinsettias have been known to induce the Christmas spirit, we acknowledge that there are also other things that significantly [illegible] the feeling: instant [illegible] comforts of [illegible] pointing home for the holidays, hangovers, and [illegible] even the stress from shopping and braving traffic. Oh, and there's this little thing called the Christmas bonus that can get any Grinch to feel like giving. From intoxication to detoxification, check out what's on our list for the naughty and the nice! Pamper thyself!

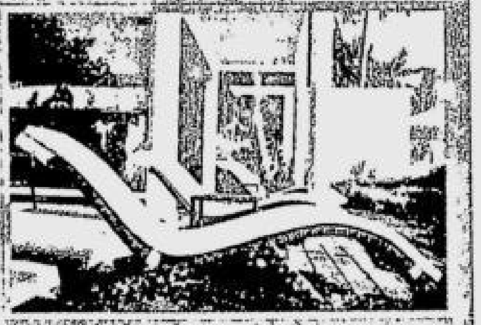
Chase those hangovers away

'Tis the season when every day feels like a weekend night! That is, until you're facing the computer monitor the next day feeling like sandpaper is flowing through your brain. Now you don't need to deal with hangovers from hell with Chaser, a brand new all-natural anti-hangover product out in the market today. Just take 2 caplets before you start drinking, and it absorbs the elements in alcohol that cause hangovers. It doesn't take away the [illegible], but it does promise a vomit-free day after. It really works. And there's no need to worry about side effects, because it's made of all natural products. So before your [illegible], grab Chaser pills at Mercury, GNC and popular bars and clubs all over the metro. Bid goodbye to hangovers and party on!

Neo Spa's Island Detox

Those headed to Boracay for holiday revelries may not have "detoxification" in mind, as "intoxication" is more on the agenda. But marathon boozing sessions leading up to the New Years toll does take its toll. For those in need of some interior cleansing, we recommend trying out Neo Spa's Island Detox. This is a complete detoxification package, which starts with

HAVE A



ISLAND D[illegible]

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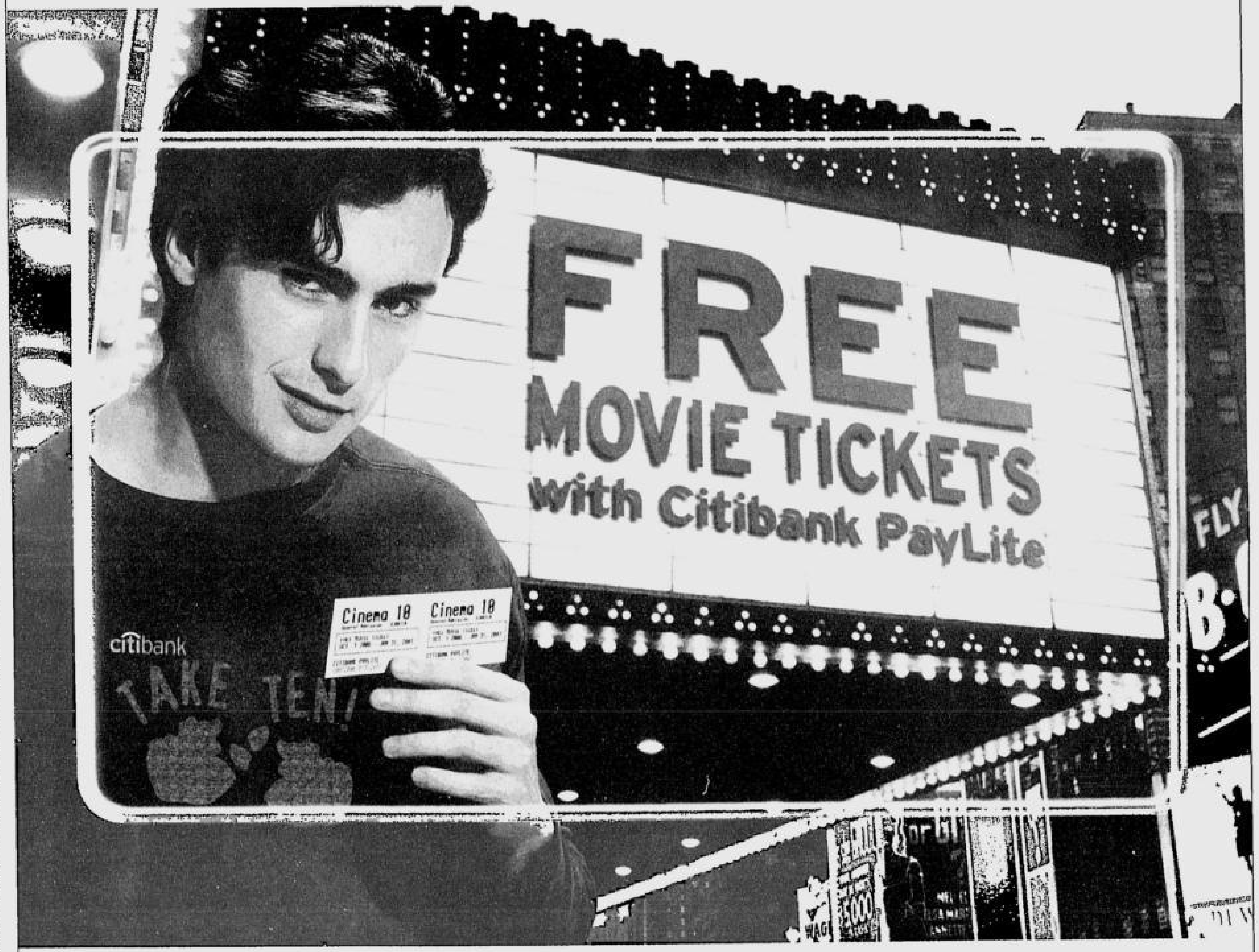
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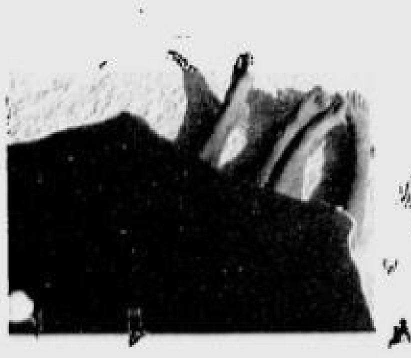

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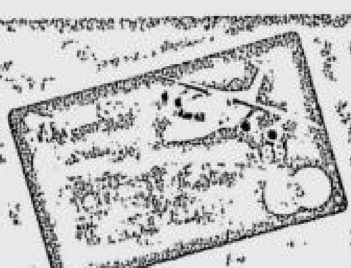
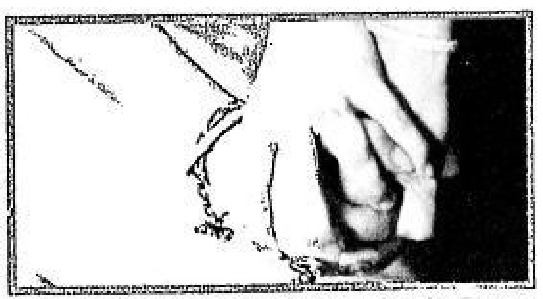

Your vacation card



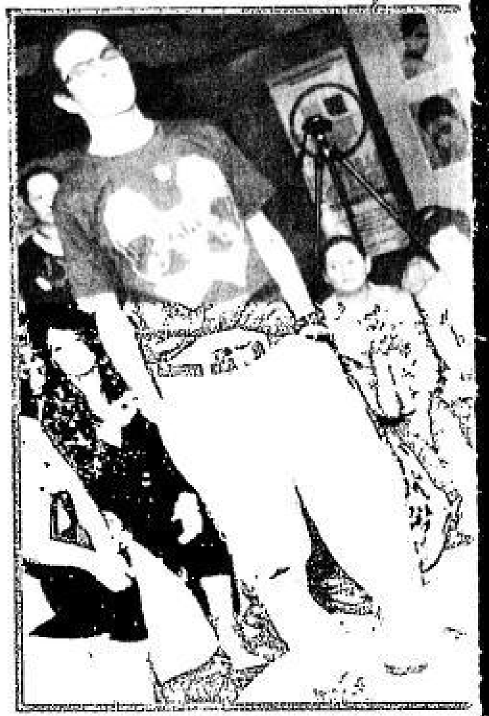
YABANG PINOY. Let's band together for Pinoy power

WE LOVE YOU GIRLS. 'I am Super!' awardees Sharon Atillo, Mimi Sanson and Corinne Ching

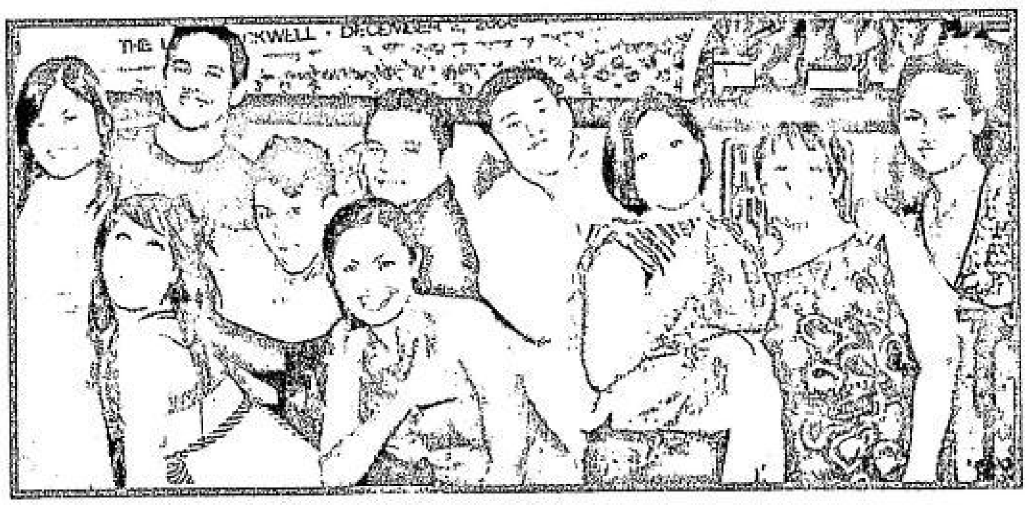
MOHAWK gurl

SHE'S BACK. Alessandra Tinio's succulent style

OTTO BOT. Retardo's piece



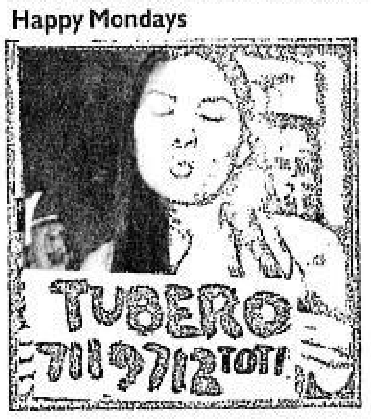
K *KA NA BA*? Karl Roy flaunts his pride.



ROCK A BYE BABIES. The Rock ng Republika family portrait

G SPOTTED. Georgina Wilson is hot, hot, hot!

CONTROVERSIAL COUP. Borgy Manotoc and Ornusa Cadness of Happy Mondays



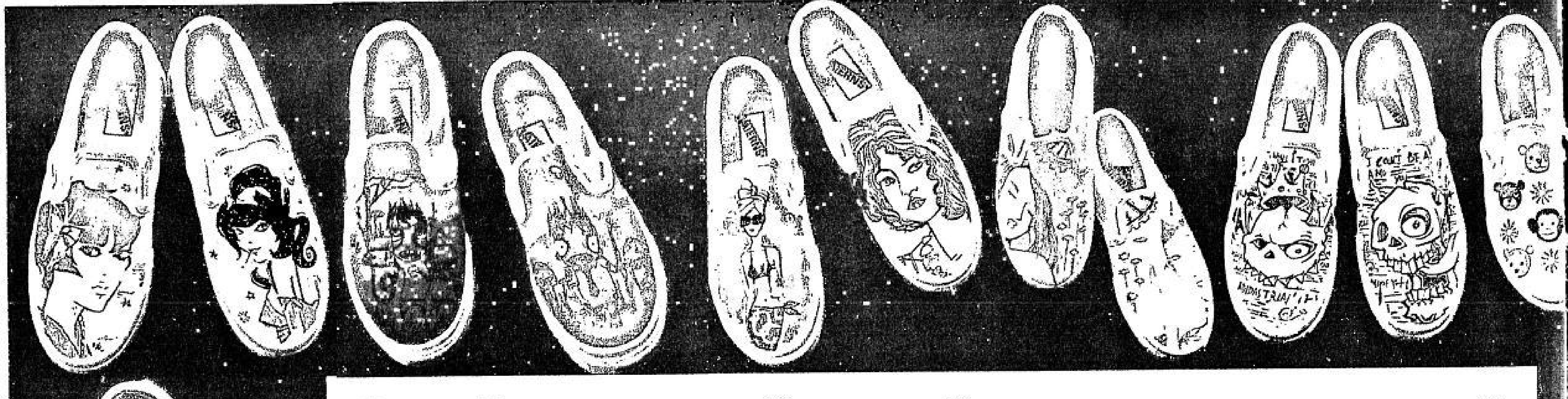
YAP IT TO YOU. Malaya pays it forward.

Rock ng Republika

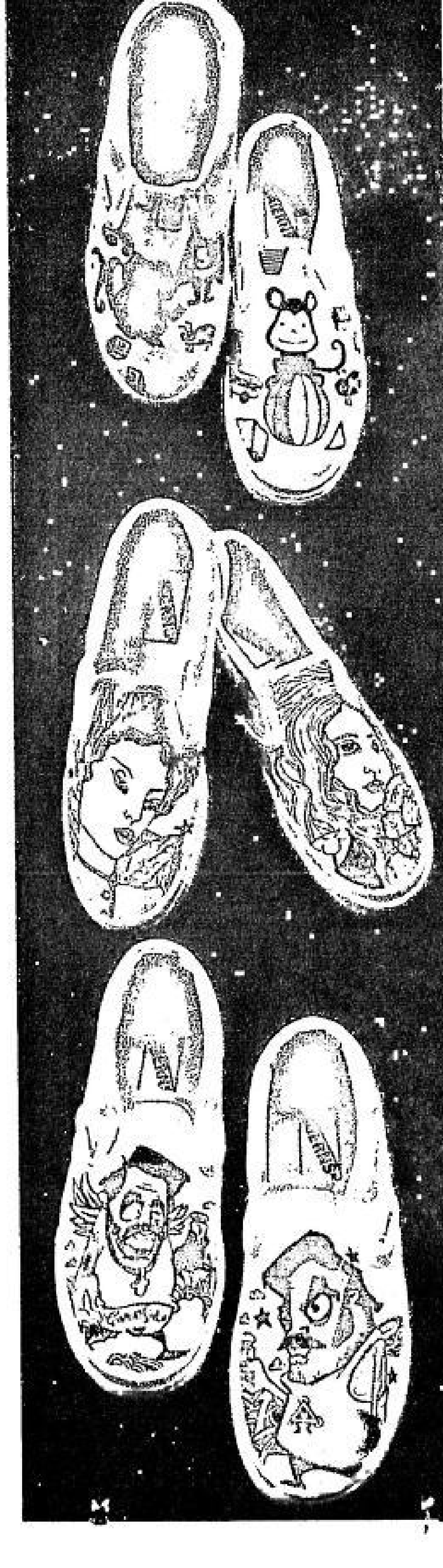
THE PRINCESS BATO GROUP JOINED FORCES WITH Yabang Pinoy, RockEd Philippines and Manila's Five Loveliest Foundation to put on a fashion show that would feature the exclusive collections of young, talented designers using native Filipino materials. The goal was to redefine, reinvent and revive Filipiniana to exist in the now and spark a newfound sense of national pride amongst the youth. Bound by their passion and determination to make a difference, the organizers linked arms, pooled their resources and together, prepared to make some noise.

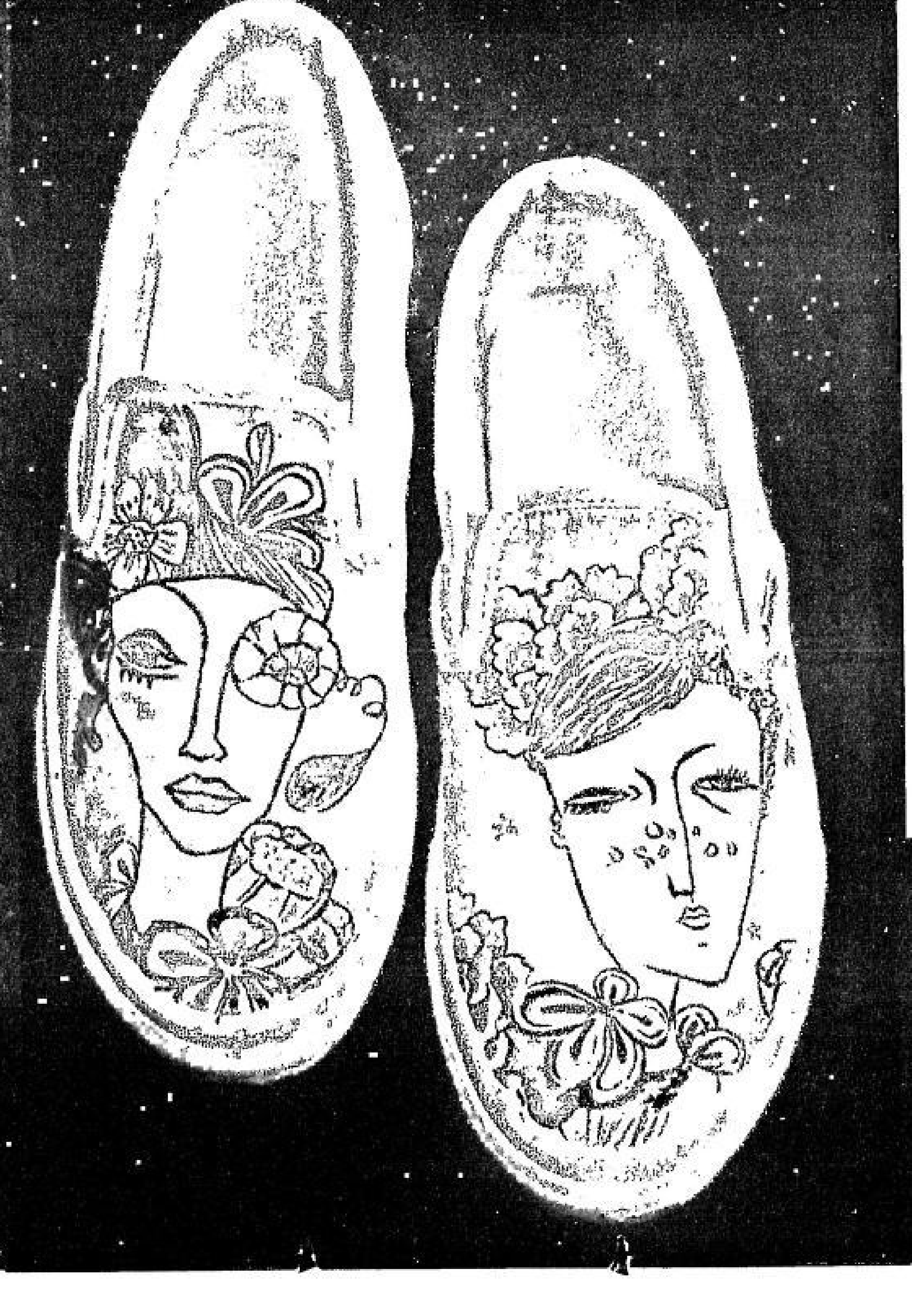
After sleepless months of planning, countless cups of coffee and inexhaustible will power, Rock ng Republika unleashed itself at the Rockwell Loft last Saturday, taking the form of a spectacular, mind-blowing show hosted by Sam Oh and directed by Quark Henares (with the help of Erwin Romulo, Mads Adrias and Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo of HG). Five different fashion houses—Finina & Swee's "Quiapo Cosmopolitan" (with accessories from Ming Ong's Kathang Kamay), I Love You, Analog Soul, Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo and Twinkle Ferraren—showcased their collections to songs from five different bands—Narda, The Dorques, Liquid Jane, Chillitees', Pedicab—as a silent auction went on for the different ensembles. Exclusive Rock ng Republika shirts designed by Katrina Encanto (printed by I Love You) and Analog Soul were on the racks, next to limited edition Yabang Pinoy bracelets, dyed in the colors of the Filipino flag for the event. The proceeds would fill the sparse library and food pantry of the Bantay Bata Children's Village in Bulacan. Certainly not an easy task to accomplish, but it was tackled in full, fabulous force by all those involved.

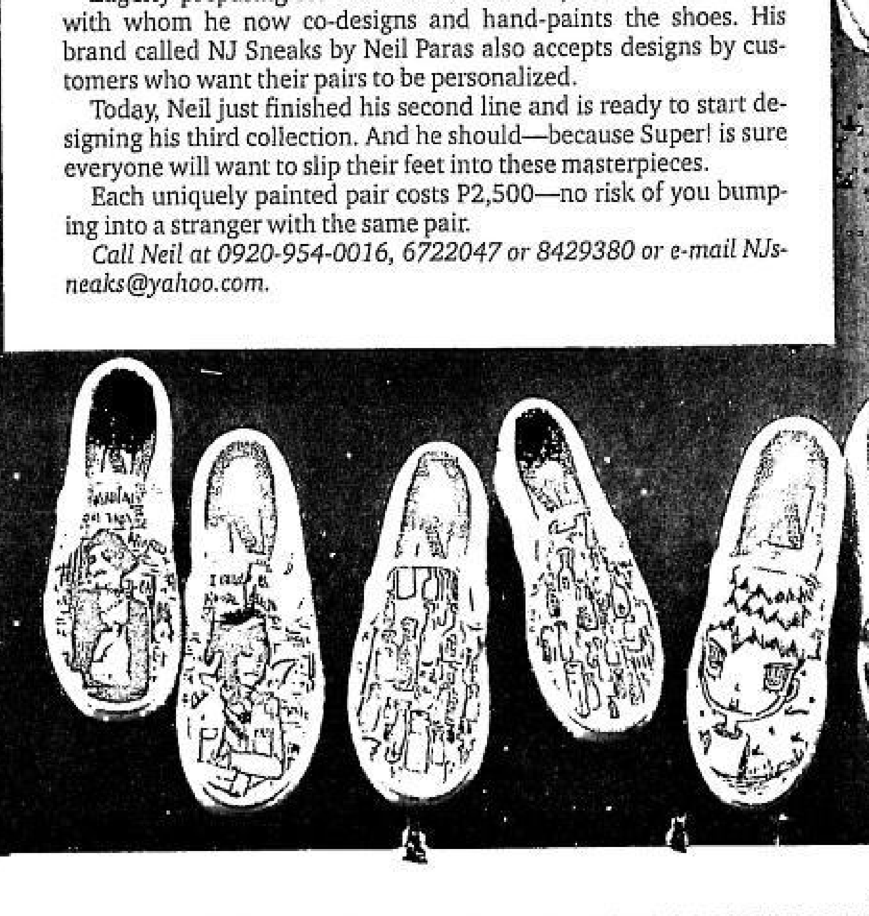
May the voice of Rock ng Republika echo into the future!



Sink your feet into some art







By David Milan

VANDALISM IS NO LONGER CONSIDERED A crime—at least not when the result is awesome-looking footwear.

Anyone who's ever been stuck in a boring classroom with an even more boring teacher knows that your good old notebook and ballpen come in handy for long minutes of doodling (believe me, it happens all the time). But 19-year-old Neil Paras does more than make silly sketches. He decided to go beyond the notebook and start vandalizing his own pair of plain-white sneakers. Yes, he put his vandalizing ideas to good use.

It shouldn't be a surprise that Neil has a knack for transforming white sneakers into museum-worthy art pieces. But you can say that art and design are already in Neil's genes. His brother, John Paras, is a talented designer that has been featured in Manila's style bibles.

Through the help of his step-dad, who is currently financing his business, he started his first collection of 15 pairs and sold them to his friends. Super! Creative Editor Tim Yap ended up buying half of them.

Eagerly preparing for his business venture, Neil hired an artist with whom he now co-designs and hand-paints the shoes. His brand called NJ Sneaks by Neil Paras also accepts designs by customers who want their pairs to be personalized.

Today, Neil just finished his second line and is ready to start designing his third collection. And he should—because Super! is sure everyone will want to slip their feet into these masterpieces.

Each uniquely painted pair costs P2,500—no risk of you bumping into a stranger with the same pair.

Call Neil at 0920-954-0016, 6722047 or 8429380 or e-mail NJsneaks@yahoo.com.

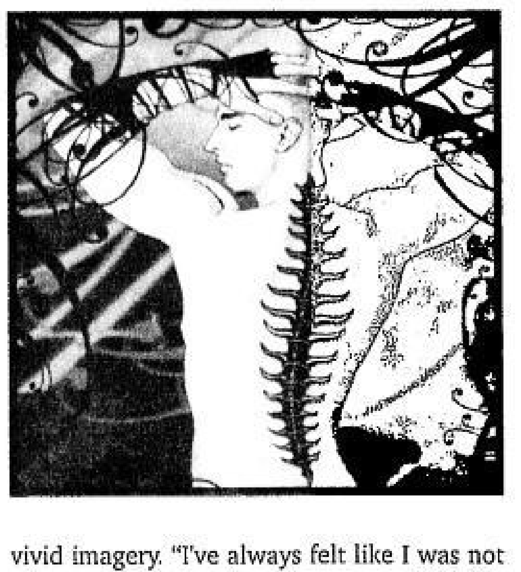
Welcome to the wonderful world of KBoi

By Jojo Nones

"I'M NEVER SCARED; I'M NOT HERE TO please everyone. My art is not just about blending in, it's more about standing out."

In KBoi dimension, the cosmos is sated with vivid colors, described by swirls of verve and whimsy, immersed in a consciousness that parallels the excesses of vanity, narcissism, and sexuality. Here, the truth is always extravagant. Embroidered. Embellished. There are no boundaries—and the only limits are the ones in your mind.

This is the world of twenty-something half-Filipino, half-Japanese Kenji (Kikuchi) Nuñez, otherwise known as 'KBoi,' whose deliciously flamboyant digital and multimedia pop creations have given him a nice, secure little alcove in the ruthlessly volatile planet of the graphic arts.



Hyperbole of human physique

"In creating my art, I create my own world," KBoi said. "I define my own standard of beauty."

His visual explorations almost always revolve around the hyperbole of the human physique, an obvious devotion to details—the little curves, the subtle humps, the delicate bumps—that when brought together, create a symphony of palpability, a strident pronouncement on the exaggeration of the qualities and elements that make up the very core of Eros and sexuality.

"I veer away from the use of just the basic colors. I want my creations to be the expression of the colorful lifestyles of the people and the community I connect with. With my art, the colors are always loud—and I am very proud of that," KBoi added.

But while his drawings and colors ostensibly scream the joys of gratification, KBoi points to 'hate' and 'anguish' as chief driving forces behind his ostentatious creations. "My drawings have often become channels for an inner aggression I can never seem to express, for past disappointments I cannot seem to unload, for bad experiences I cannot seem to forget."

These lamentable incidents have become a wielding agent, helping him fashion more vivid imagery. "I've always felt like I was not given enough attention at home as a child. My drawings were my escape, they were my audience and my show; they kept me company, they made me free."

KBoi says he remembers doing sketches as a kid after watching his first Walt Disney movie in a theater, The Little Mermaid. "I was drawn to Ariel and her beautiful colors, to her graceful curves and her handsome Eric and intrigued by Ursula. If Ariel could have her own world, then I could have one, too," KBoi recalls.

From Walt Disney, his attention eventually shifted to Hayao Miyazaki, the Japanese animation master behind such hits as Princess Mononoke and the Spirited Away.

KBoi also developed an attachment to comic book artist Jim Lee's designs. Lee is one of the most recognizable names in the X-Men franchise. Lee helped launch a second X-Men series simply called X-Men, create Gambit and design new uniforms for Cyclops, Jean Grey, Rogue, Psylocke and Storm.

"I loved how Lee played around with the female figure. The female characters were always so teeming with intense sexuality, drawn with such delicate attention to features and body parts," Kboi says.

This is the same reason KBoi likes popular American comic book artist Joe Phillips, whose outlandishly anatomically correct male cartoons are charged with homoeroticism. "I wanted art that made me feel good, that made my audience feel good," says KBoi, "that with just one look, they will get it, feel it, and imbibe it. When I see them reacting to my drawings, I get a jolt of energy, I feel a surge of happiness, all the more convincing me that I have chosen the right path."

The Evolution of KBoi

KBoi's art has undoubtedly directed him to interesting paths. Just over two years ago, when this writer first met KBoi, he was a shy, timid young boy who just left a budding career in Singapore to pursue an uncertain future in Manila. But in tonight's interview with Super!, KBoi is very much different. No more hesitation, no more the anxious disposition. "I just want to keep expressing my ideas, keep giving life to imaginary scenes locked in memory."

And lately, KBoi has been doing just that—expressing himself thru avenues that better his vision and hone his art. He is currently the creative director and editor in chief of lifestyle glossy GP Magazine; plus, he's been tapped to design art for the national campaign of one of the country's major digital media suppliers. This month, he is also coming out with his first-ever one-man art exhibit for the benefit of The Gift Foundation, to be hosted by Boy Abunda and Tessa Prieto-Valdes, at the Ricco Renzo Galleries in Bel Air, Makati.

When asked what audiences can expect from his exhibit, KBoi is candid, "While before my characters were quite Western, now they are more Asian-looking. But one thing is always certain, my art is unmistakably young."

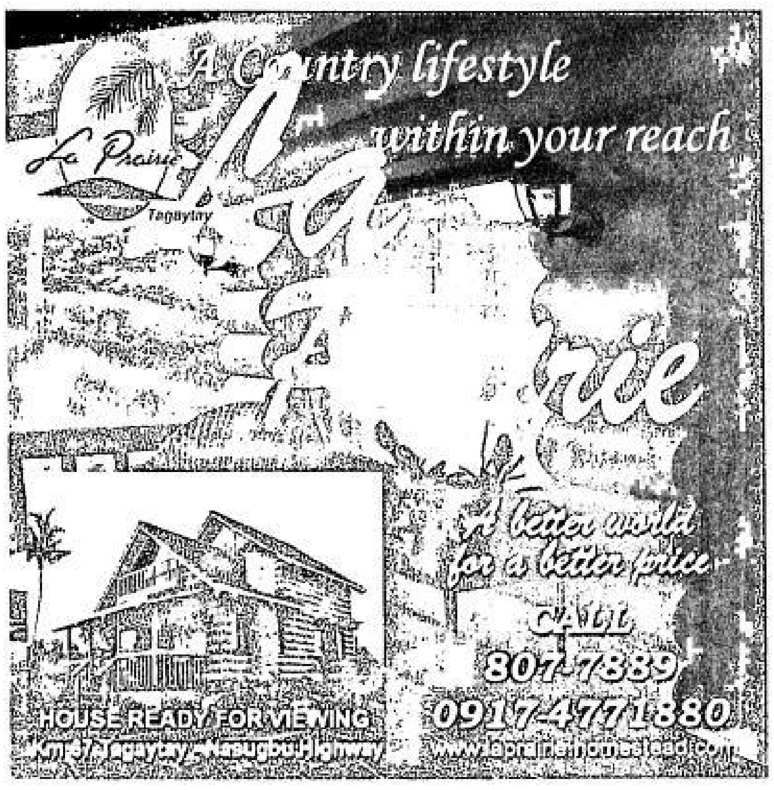
Indeed, KBoi's creations are inundated with a pop appeal and a youthful energy that is as frighteningly seductive as it is delightfully naïve. Even he himself says so, "my drawings and the worlds I create will always retain a youthful essence, even when I have ceased to be young, even when the world has ceased to be young."

For details on KBoi's exhibit, "The Neon World of KBoi," call CircuitAsia at 8897877.

E-mail the author at jojonones@gmail.com.

Digital pop art for dummies: A step-by-step guide according to KBoi

1. Be alone. Tell your lover, brother, mother, sister, girlfriend to get out of the room.
2. Get in the mode. Play music that gets you in the groove. (For KBoi, nothings beats unflinchingly pop dance confection from K-girl, Kylie.)
3. Doodle. Sketch as many images as you can using pencil and paper. Just be sure to be ready with good paper just in case one of these doodles turns into a stroke of genius.
4. Choose the best drawing. Sometimes, having a break and coming back to the drawing board after a good movie or a nice, brisk walk is the best pre-choice ritual.
5. Enlarge the choice drawing by sketching it again on a bigger clean sheet of paper, this time paying more attention to the finer details.
6. Ink it. KBoi suggests using a 0.2 Staedtler Technical Pen and a 0.5 Rotring Graphic Pen. Black is best, he adds.
7. "Clean" the inked drawing. Erase all visible pencil marks.
8. Scan it using a digital scanner.
9. Paint, color, and enhance the drawing using such digital graphic art programs as Adobe Photoshop CS2.
10. Save the digital finished product. Always have a backup, KBoi adds.
11. Print finished product, then mount an exhibit for friends, family, and loved ones. Or if not, just show your artwork around.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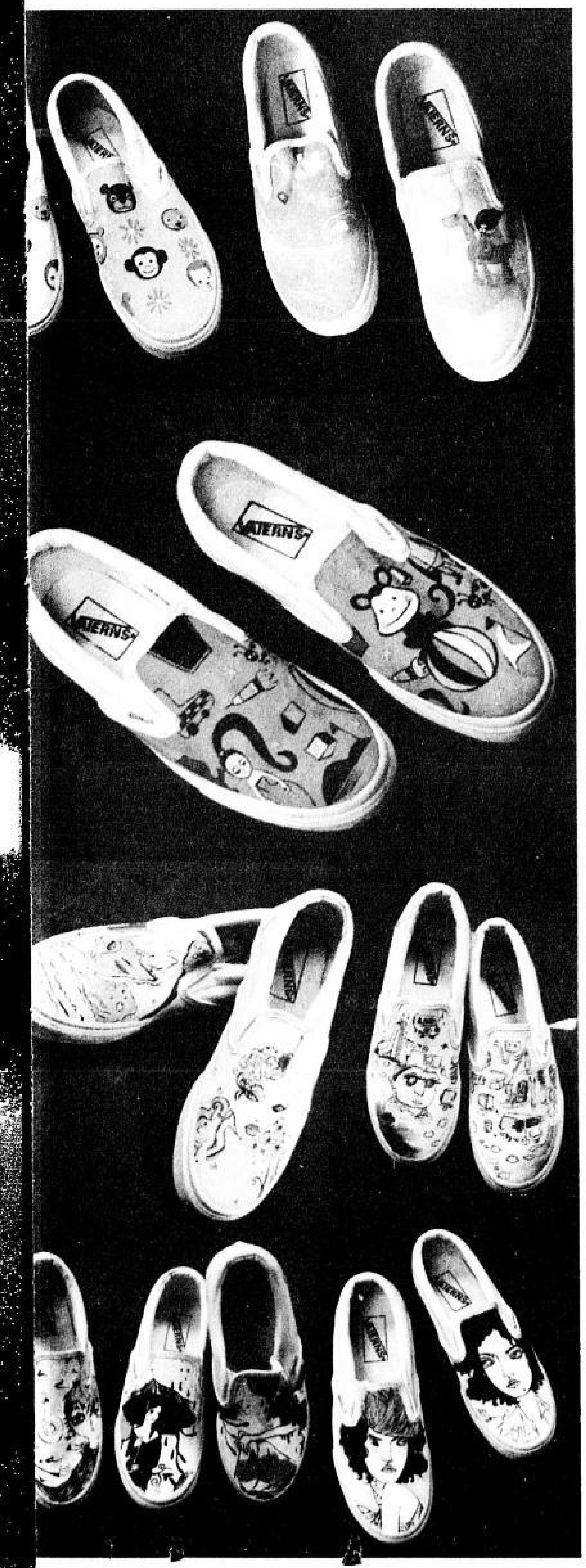

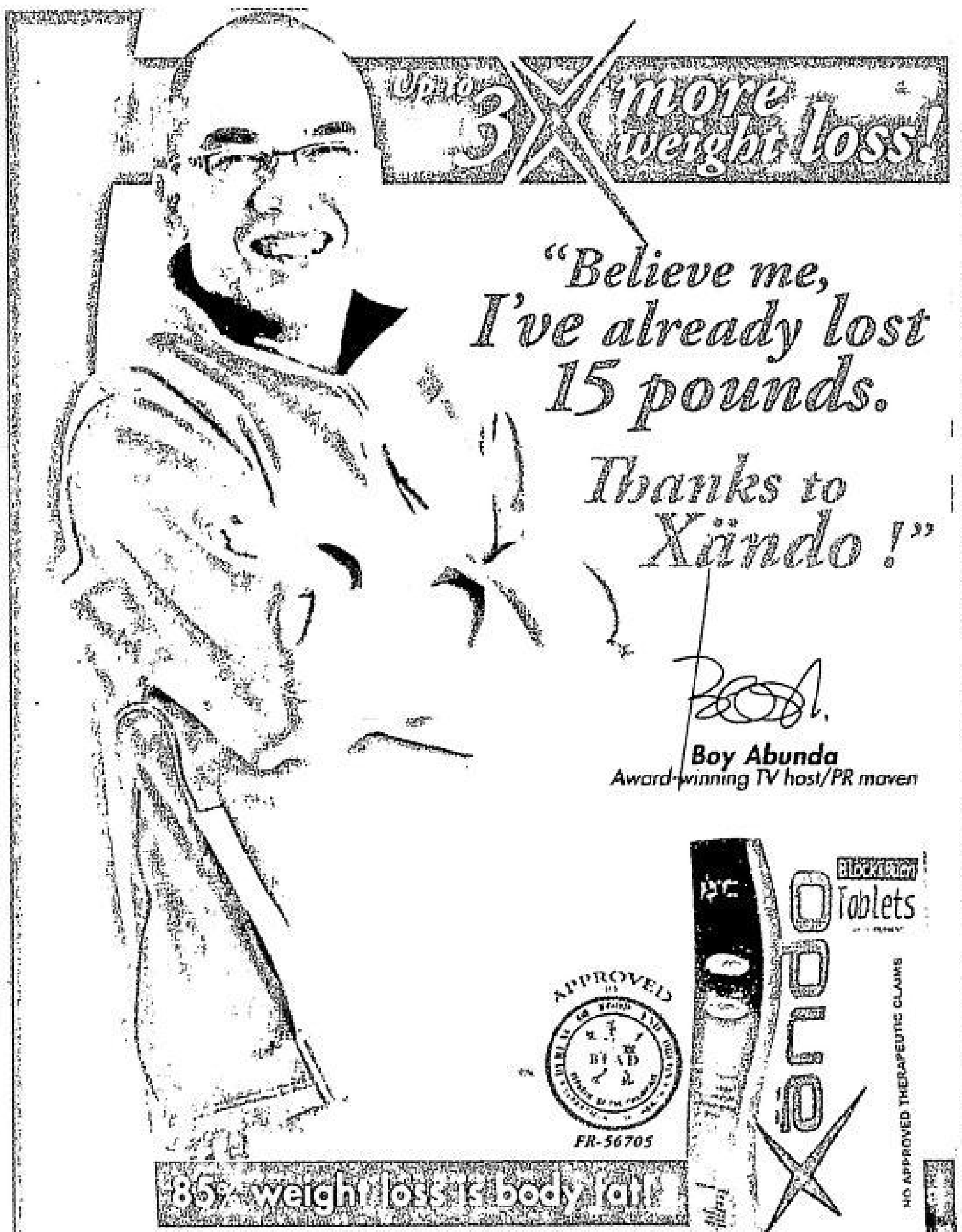
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Xando Recommends Tri-phasic Lifestyle to Manage Obesity

Xando Block and Burn, the newest weight reduction formula and dietary supplement, revealed that people with obesity need to adopt a tri-phasic lifestyle regimen (TLR) that requires dietary intervention, behavior modification and regular exercise to properly manage their condition.

Dr. Victor Ong Yek Cheng, PhD., a senior lecturer of pharmacology at Monash University, stressed that a combination of dietary tools, behavioral changes and physical activities are key elements to lifelong weight control.

Dr. Ong recommends the replacement of one daily meal with Very Low Calorie Diet (VLCD), preferably during dinner; and intake of calorie blockers and burners before every meal. "We should also eat more Omega-3 rich food such as fish and avoid Omega-6 supplementation such as evening primose oil. Develop the habit of eating smaller meals and avoid snacking in-between meals as well as drinks loaded with calories such as soft drinks, fruit juices, and coffee," Dr. Ong said. Exercise should be a combination of catabolic (fat burning) and anabolic (muscle building) activities.

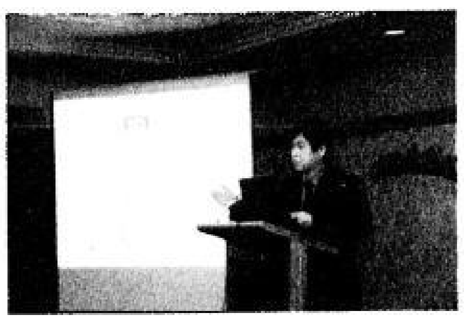
Boy Abunda, one of the country's popular television talk show hosts, did just that. Now at about 170 lbs., Boy is nearing his ideal weight of 165 lbs. five months after doing the tri-phasic lifestyle regimen.

"When I was about 190 lbs., a meal to me without rice is not a meal. It's a snack! With my newly-acquired discipline, I'm more careful with my diet now. It wasn't an imposed thing. I just realized the need to take care of my health. This is where Xando has helped me big time. I complemented it by playing badminton or walking whenever I can." Boy said.

What makes Xando different is that it contains all-natural ingredients of kidney bean extracts, chicory (chicorium intybus), and garcinia (garcinia cambogia fructus). These key ingredients block out calories from carbohydrates, starch, and sugar from food such as rice, noodles, pasta and bread. It contains a unique combination of phaseolamin, insulin and hydroxycitric acid (HCA) that reduces and burns unwanted body fat.

Another good thing about Xando is that it does not contain laxative and caffeine. Instead, it contains soluble fibers so bowel movements become more regular with the help of enough water intake (eight to 10 glasses a day).

Xando is recommended for people who eat carbo-laden food. It is also good for carbo lovers who have been trying to cut on their carbo diet. Diabetics can also benefit from taking Xando since it can help control or lower their blood sugar. But Xando suggests that customers with diabetes should come to their office located at City Center Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan; or better yet, check with their own physicians first. Xando Block and Burn is available at all Watsons outlets.



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Morellato Gift Guide 2006

From easy to wear to easy chic.

Morellato announces the arrival of increased charm, increased glamour and increased personality of their creations and offers jewellery that is "ever more jewellery", to be experienced every day, making everyday special.

"Daily chic" jewellery, an "everyday" wish, accessible and versatile but at the same time glamorous and brimming with style and personality.

New forms, precious materials, stones, diamonds and gold make Morellato creations unique and exclusive, to be experienced daily. Because daily life can be really special.

THE NEW WOMEN'S COLLECTION

For the ladies, Morellato offers jewellery that is up-to-date, versatile and precious and that reflect the latest fashion trends in design, such as the return of kthe colours of yellow gold, pink and dual-colour metals, a little everyday luxury born o f the blending of modern materials like steel and sought-after materials like diamonds, stone and pearls.

Until now restricted to the male wardrobe, cufflinks now also make an appearance as part of a woman's attire, who have shrewdly made it their own. Morellato puts these little jewels at a woman's wrists, something between irony and precision, for the woman who loves detail and a very personal style.

THE NEW MEN'S COLLECTION

Men and jewellery: a style phenomenon, now somehow legitimate for daily life. Man's world now also chooses jewellery to personalise its style, seeking exact, essential designs for jewellery that is totally modern.

Morellato presents Fire, Master and Doppiogioco, new lines dedicated to fashion forward men.

Morellato's unique designs and quality craftsmanship of the top jewelers of the world comes at an affordable price.

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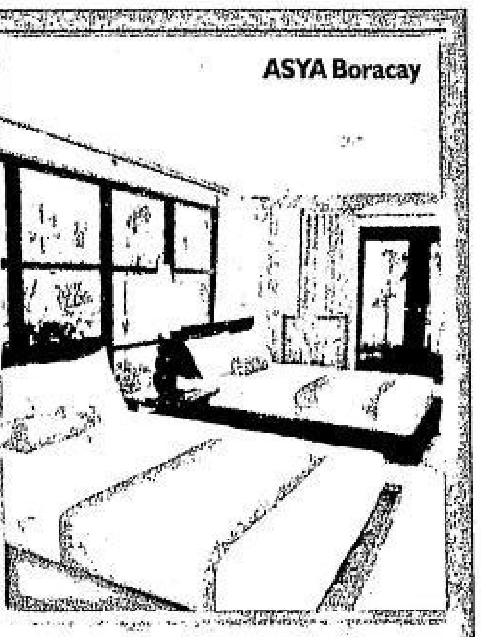
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Asya Boracay

[illegible] hidden [illegible] of Boracay Island. [illegible] Station [illegible] Boracay [illegible] Asian chic [illegible] landscaped gardens, flowing pools and serene court yards [illegible] rooms [illegible] highly recommend [illegible] Don Mestizo restaurant [illegible] traditional Spanish [illegible] Paella Negra, Paella Marinera and Arroz con Chorizo. [illegible] Boracay experience complete with the overall sensory pampering [illegible] tropical [illegible]

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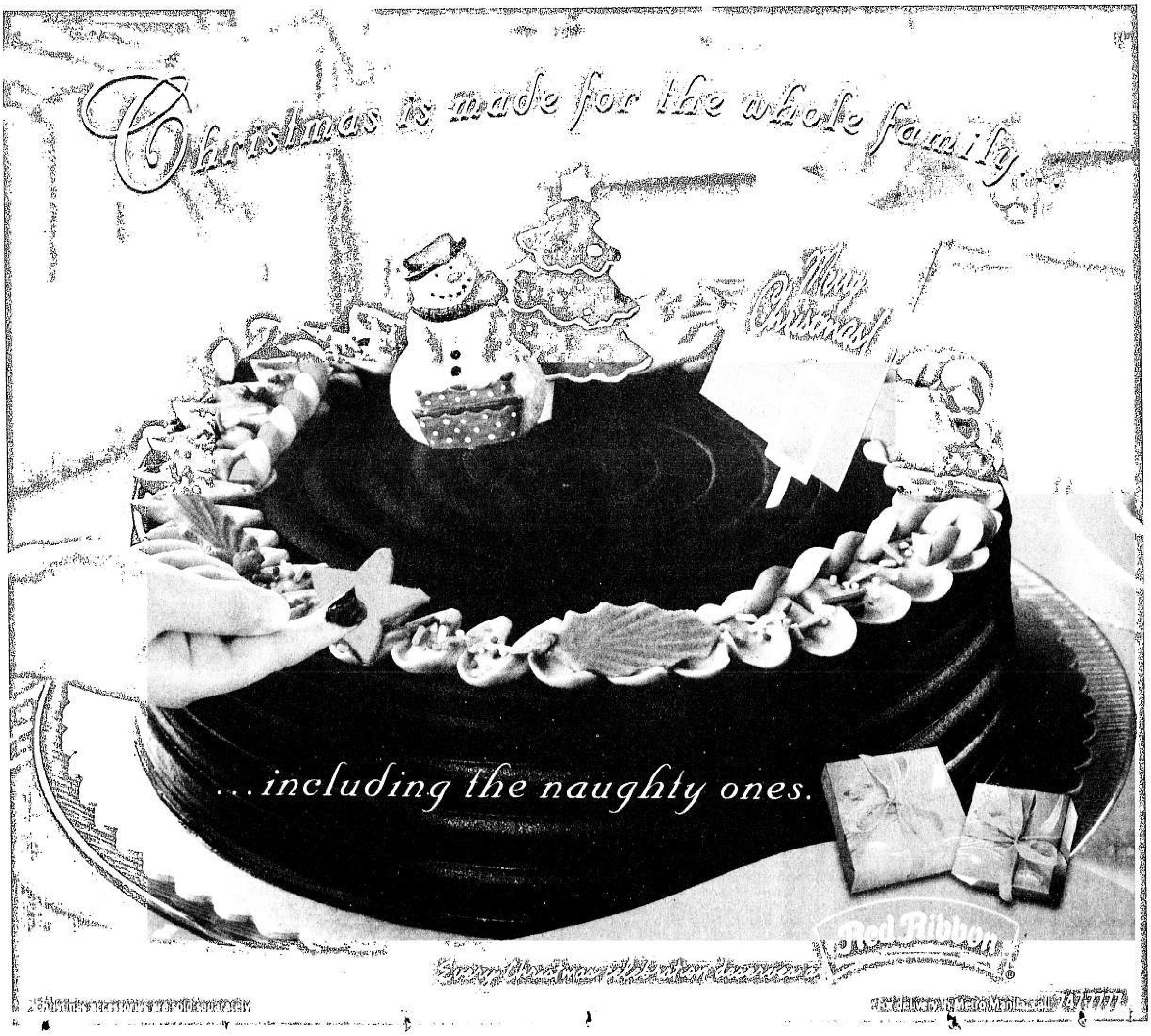
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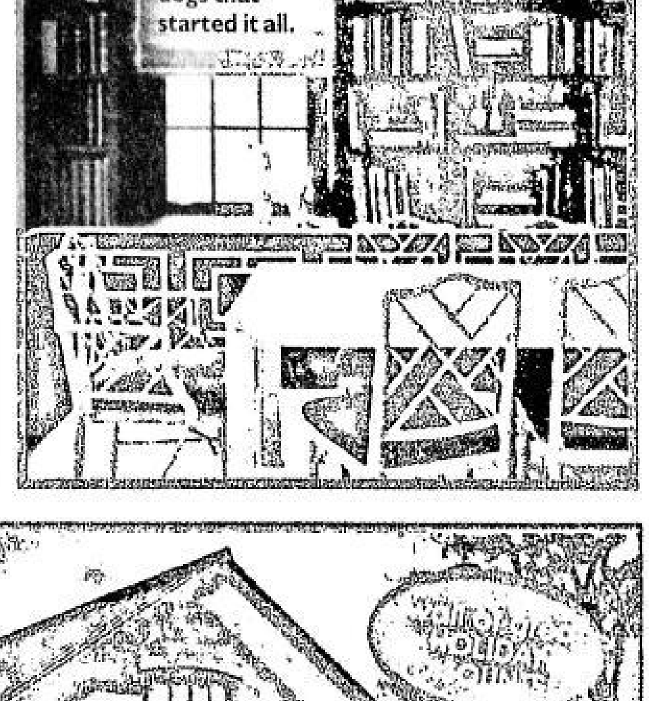
The great indoors

DESIGN ADDICT. The Bird Lounge Chair by Harry Bertoia



BOW WOWS. The blue foo dogs that started it all.

Back in the day, fashion and music defined one's style. Now, domesticity is the newest form of self-expression

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

AS IF TOYED BY THE HAND of a drunken God, I found myself performing—obliviously, I might add—a ritual of self-definition in an unlikely place. I was in a car, randomly navigating the sketchy streets of Wan Chai in Hong Kong, when I told the driver to stop, park, and wait indefinitely (which was something like twenty minutes). A few blocks away, my laser-like peripheral vision spotted something I had been droolingly obsessed with for some time now: a pair of turquoise-colored foo dogs. Strange, I know.

Ever since I started seeing them more frequently in new-generation interiors magazines (like Living Etc., Domino, Inside Out, and Elle Decoration UK), I have made it my mission to hunt them down—eBay, overseas, in Bicol. After all, they'd make perfect bookends for a stack of crisp first-edition novels or an unruly pile of CDs. The chatty shopkeeper said I was about the eleventh tourist to gawk at them that week.

Little did I know that aside from saucer-eyed mania for odd-looking ceramic pooches, there was something else going on during that particular trip. For some reason, the blue foo dogs became talismans of permanence, summing up my transition to a more sophisticated way of thinking, living, and being. Could it be? Evolution for only $42? High five! And that was just the beginning.

From style to lifestyle

I'd hate to call it growing up, but in some ways—gulp—it is. Before, I'd mark my wanderlustful journeys with the usual just-back-from-wherever ephemera: clothes. But that, I realized, was exactly the problem. While Tsubis still make awesome souvenirs, fashion as a form of self-expression became kinda weak years ago.

In his article, "Interiority Complex," i-D Magazine's Murray Healy chronicled the shift in attitude this way. "Music and fashion, the things we used to live for, are contaminated by consumer paranoia: that shadowy suspicion that the music we listen to and the clothes we wear simply slot us into a well-researched marketing profile." He even went on to write that no matter how eccentric you believe your lifestyle is, the marketers already have you figured out on their big, evil marketing computers.

So it seems the questions "What are you wearing?" and "What's on your iPod?" have become achingly normal and obsolete. Ironically, they no longer stand for genuine individuality, but for corporate-fueled homogeneity. Been. Been. Been. Done. Done. Done. Yawn.

THE HOTNESS. Young design talent Maarten Baas' Smoke dining chairs for Dutch company Moooi are systematically burned historic pieces of furniture, which were preserved with an epoxy and, where required, re-upholstered.

Shiny new optimism

Where should we retreat to then? As public space turns into one giant, art-directed billboard (that's selling us something and desperately at that), things that feel as if they're not become more desirable by contrast. Where you live seems to be the only place left without an agenda and it's the only place where you can really be yourself. After all, it's populated by someone you know and whose supreme taste you trust—you.

Look at it this way: One's personal space cannot be reduced to an algorithm, not even by the most sophisticated market analysis team, so domesticity has now become the newest form of hedonism. It represents a shiny brand of optimism for those who dream of independence and a higher, more 360? type of self-articulation. I mean, everyone needs to live, so why not live well?

Domestic utopia

These days, I find myself indulging in my own domestic utopia or at least, the one in my mind. Maarten Baas' Smoke dining chairs, suzanis from Uzbekistan, and anything Bang & Olufsen top my wish list, elbowing out skinny jeans, Kim Jones hoodies, and limited edition sneakers, which have inadvertently become high-school-esque, which was the time I got into those sorts of things anyway.

Gradually, I've learned to dimensionalize the must-know names in my book with a new lexicon: Harry Bertoia, Marcel Wanders, and Jonathan Adler, among others. And apparently, I'm not alone in soaking up art, art objects, and other scraps of design.

According to Rachelle Medina, editor in chief of Real Living Magazine, daydreaming about cool interiors is a legitimate trend for twentysomethings. "This is possibly the result of the ease of purchasing décor online (if you have the bucks, you can get practically any designer item you want), and the increased buying power and financial freedom of younger, single people—as opposed to families who will decorate their homes based on more practical, basic needs."

Rachelle continues, "I've seen a few homes in a diverse number of styles that either has: a. No actual bed—just a lounge-y sofa since the owner believes a bed will 'mar' the sleekness of his studio unit; b. No dining table since they'd rather eat out, and c. Absolutely no color at all, since the owners love the cleanness of white and have no children or pets anyway." And if it works for your lifestyle? "Then go for it!" she advises.

Design-led cocooning

The rise of interior design as a way to paint your own culture onto a blank space is the ultimate exercise in freedom—and restraint. In an Elle Decoration UK feature, acclaimed designer John Rocha once said, "Interiors have to last longer than fashion. An interior needs to look good in 10 or 20 years' time." It seems that the discipline of interior design, of fixing one's space and defining one's territory for more than just this season, is the logical counterpoint to the anything-goes chaos of everything else in pop culture today, especially fashion and music.

And to paraphrase French writer André Gide: If the world is black, the artist's role is to paint it white, and conversely, if it's white, a black palette is required. Since the herd is firmly in spill-your-guts, let-it-all-out mode, the more visionary among us have decided to keep it all in. Design-led cocooning is exactly a manifestation of the latter, the ultimate in niche that brings new meaning to the word "insider."

This sudden interest in domestic matters could just be a phase. On the other hand, maybe it's not. As an emerging adult who's no longer challenged by The Latest Thing, I find the great indoors to be a rather audacious proposition. See, looking good is cool. But looking good AND living well is way, way cooler.

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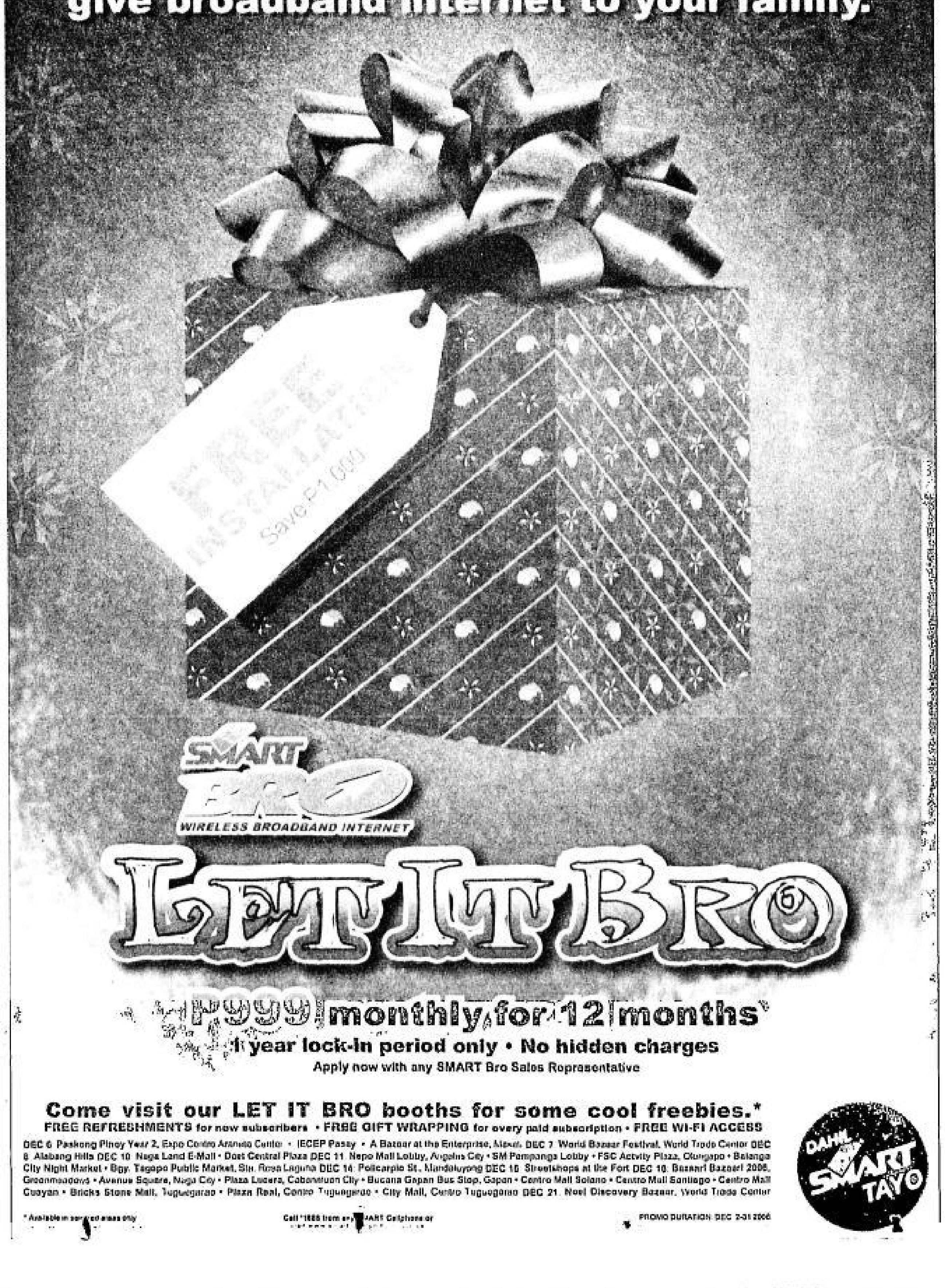

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Waterfront launches biggest best and newest rooms

WATERFRONT CEBU CITY HOTEL & CASINO (WCCHC), the flagship property of Waterfront Hotels and Casinos, successfully completes its renovation program of "Bigger, Better, Newer Rooms", the company's P60 million room and suite enhancement program. The first phase of the renovation was completed from July until September and entailed floors 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8. The second phase, which completed just this month, comprised the refurbishment of floors 5 and 6 in the Casino Block and the 12th floor.

Now that the Hotel has successfully completed its renovation program, it formally launches its "Biggest, Best And Newest Rooms" campaign, taking pride in all 231 newly renovated guest rooms, producing new room categories as well: 157 Superior Rooms, 165 Deluxe Rooms, 16 all-new Junior Suites, 29 new Executive Suites, 3 new Bridal Suites, and 4 new Family Suites.

Incorporated into the suite rooms' new look is a well-designed and spacious workspace that includes a personal computer and fax machine. Flat screen televisions in the living room areas, Plasma colored televisions in the bedrooms, a separate bathtub and a rainshower bath, among others. Some of the services and perks that come with the new suites are: 24 hour shoe-shine service, morning paper delivered right to your door step, complimentary access to Citigym, the city's only 24 hour fitness center, hi-speed access to the internet and access to a movie library to go with the rooms' entertainment systems. Another new guest room centerpiece that is now available in all suite rooms is the new Waterfront signature bed: the "Slumber Splendor Bed". Designed to give guests an ultra-comfortable rest, the Slumber Splendor Bed boasts of fluffy duvet covers of 100 percent Egyptian cotton, 300 thread count bed linens, a premium mattress top and 6 feathery soft goosedown pillows. Exciting new elements have been designed to tailor fit the Hotel's new suite room categories, as well, based on their functions: Bridal, Family and Executive Suites.

The major renovation program is part and parcel of the company's efforts to prepare for the upcoming Asean Summit in December.

Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino is located at Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City, Philippines. For inquiries and reservations, please contact (032) 232-6888: Conventions: Local 8044; Food and Beverage: 8200; 8201; Front Office: 8133.

Paseo Uno's gingerbread cookie decorating challenge

KIDS NAUGHTY OR NICE ARE IN for an early Christmas treat this season. As part of Mandarin Oriental, Manila's merry activities for children, the uber-chic and interactive Paseo Uno offers kids age 5 to 12 years old, a chance to unleash their inner creativity in a gingerbread cookie decorating contest using available cookie trimmings. Children partaking of Paseo Uno's delectable buffet lunch on Sunday, Dec. 17, are eligible to participate in the contest, which will be held at the children's play area at the Captain's Bar from 12 nn to 2 pm.

The lunch fare for kids at P650+++ also proffer fabulous gift packages for budding pastry chefs with the most unique and creative cookie design, and lots of kiddie giveaways from Enchanted Kingdom and San Miguel Corporation. Regular buffet lunch for adults is at P1,030+++. Other fun-filled kiddie activities include creative storytelling sessions, face-painting activities, and the company of Enchanted Kingdom mascots and Clifford the Big Red Dog. A children's book fair will also be on exhibit at the Captain's Bar play area, on all Sundays of December by Scholastic Books.

The four-year old Asian-inspired, all-day dining restaurant Paseo Uno is the very first to introduce a trend setting dining concept with its theatre of open kitchens and sensational International and Asian buffets prepared a la minute, and soon became the top trendy choice among the metropolis' stylish set. To avoid the holiday rush, Paseo Uno now accepts Christmas and New Year dining reservations, and bookings for various themed parties and celebrations.

Paseo Uno is open daily from 5 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., breakfast; 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., lunch; 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., snack; and 6 p.m. to 12 a.m., dinner. For enquiries and reservations, call Paseo Uno at 750-8888 extension 2411/2412.

The Bellevue's Holiday Goodness

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR LOVing and caring, and what better way to give joy to your friends and loved ones than sending them a surprise for the holidays? The Bellevue Hotel makes gift-giving easy with its celebrated pastries and rich cakes, as well as Christmas hampers specially wrapped in holiday packaging. Place orders now by calling 771-8181. Perfect gifts for the discriminating boss, the sweet-toothed best friend or the successful colleague!

Mistletoe, The Bellevue's Drink of the Month for December. Experience "Decem-brrr!" with The Bellevue's Drink for the merry month of Christmas. Mistletoe is a sinful concoction of oreo cookies, strawberry and vanilla ice cream, topped with luscious whipped cream and cherries. Each drink entitles you to a free Santa-garbed Pugsley stuffed toy.

The Bellevue Hotel's Merry Christmas, Margarita! Toast to more Christmases and joyful celebration at The Bellevue Hotel's 20/20 Entertainment Bar. This Dec. 1 to 31, drink to the successes and triumphs of the past year with the hotel's Merry Christmas, Margarita promo. Get one pitcher of margarita for only P430++, or enjoy your pitcher of margarita with chicken wings or nachos for only P700++ while listening to 20/20's live bands!

Holiday 1+1 Room Promo, at The Bellevue Hotel. Spend your holidays at the happiest hotel for families in southern Metro Manila area, The Bellevue Hotel, and get great deals on luxurious accommodations. Avail of The Bellevue's special holiday rate of P5,500++ per night and get the 2nd room or 2nd night for free. The promo includes deluxe room accommodation, buffet breakfast for free night or room, free use of swimming pool and gym facilities at The Bellevue Spa Club, 10 percent discount on dermatological services at any Belo Medical Clinic, complimentary shuttle service to nearby malls and business districts, welcome drink at 20/20 Entertainment Bar, welcome fruit plate, two bottles of mineral water replenished daily and local newspaper. Second room or 2nd night is not convertible to gift certificates and must be availed during the check-in period of the guest. Promo period is from Dec. 15 to 31 and only available to local residents and balikbayans. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Christmas for the young and young at heart at Dusit

EXPERIENCE THE HEARTFELT JOYS THAT THE Holiday brings as Dusit Hotel Nikko offer you a wide variety of soulful delights to satisfy your Yuletide cravings. The hotel has prepared numerous activities reminiscent of the Holidays we once knew as a child. Be amazed with the Chocolate House at the Deli Shop or feast on a customary fare of puto bumbong or bibingka at the Lobby Lounge. All these and more in celebration of "Christmas for the Young and Young at Heart."

For the joyous month of December, chef Tun of Benjarong Restaurant prepared five sumptuous Thai a la carte dishes for you to savor from Dec. 11 to 23. On Dece. 24 and 25, partake on Benjarong's special set menu consisting of an appetizer, salad, soup, three main course dishes, and dessert.

Have a romantic Christmas with your partner at Benkay and indulge on chef Tomiyama's seven-course menu for only P4,000++. This special offering comes with a glass of red or white wine for two.

At Thien Duong, partake on chef Nguyen's menu choices for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day consisting of appetizer, salad, soup, main course, and dessert.

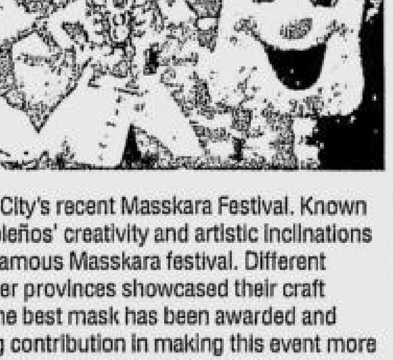
The Café welcomes the Holiday spirit with a special treat for everyone. Partake of the special Yuletide dinner buffet offered on Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1 for only P1,050++ per person.

As an added treat for large groups dining at Fiesta San Miguel this month of December, a scrumptious 'Lechon de Leche' will be given for free for those dining with a minimum guarantee of P12,000. Family style lunch and dinner menus are also offered for Christmas Day.

We invite you to rekindle, once again, the Christmas that brings to mind all the happiness of childhood. For inquiries and reservations, call 867-3333.

People, Events & Products

GARDENIA CELEBRATES MASSKARA FESTIVAL



Gardenia Bakeries (Philippines) Inc participated in this year's Masskara Festival as one of the exhibitors during the culmination activity. A day filled with dancing, colorful costumes and of course, masks, highlighted Bacolod City's recent Masskara Festival. Known as the "City of Smiles", Bacoleños' creativity and artistic inclinations were featured in this world-famous Masskara festival. Different barangays, schools, and other provinces showcased their craft through parade of masks. The best mask has been awarded and honored. Gardenia's winning contribution in making this event more colorful and fun was because of their belief in the value of this tradition and culture, as well as in the ingenuity and talents of Filipinos. Gardenia has continued to prove that it is more than just the leading bread brand. Aside from the company's commitment of providing healthy and quality breads, it is also passionate in supporting activities that promote development - be it economic, social or cultural

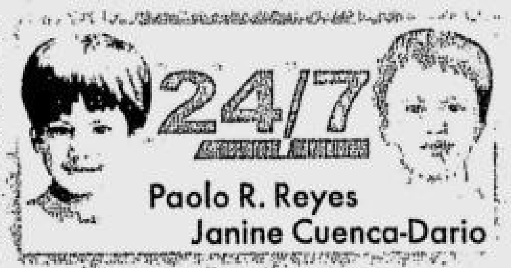
Acer 'Win With Acer 2' promo extended

IN ORDER TO GIVE CUSTOMERS MORE CHANCES TO WIN EXCITING PRIZES BEFORE THE year ends, Acer Philippines announced that it is extending its "Win With Acer 2" promo from the earlier deadline of Nov. 30. With this announcement, Filipinos now have until Dec. 31, or a full month from the original deadline, to purchase their own Acer notebook or desktop computer that comes with a pre-loaded genuine Microsoft Windows operating system at any participating Acer reseller nationwide, to qualify and get the chance to bring home exciting prizes from Acer Phils Inc, the local office of Acer Inc, one of the world's top computer manufacturers. Lucky winners must then call the Acer Philippines Inc Marketing Department at 815-3388 local 134 to submit the answers and give out specific details like name, contact number, purchased item, date of purchase, Acer Product Serial Number and Reseller Invoice Number, Item Won, and choice of pick-up point (an SM Appliance Center branch of choice). For more details about "Win With Acer 2," call 815-3388 or log on to www.acer.com.ph.

Christmas Gifts Expo 2006

GOOD NEWS FOR LAST MINUTE SHOPPING AND CONVENIENCE THIS YULETIDE season! Christmas Gifts Expo 2006 is all set to run this Dec. 20 to 24 and 26 to 30 at the SM Megatrade Halls 2 and 3, 5/F the Summit, Mega B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Christmas Gifts Expo 2006 will feature interesting and bargain finds from fashion accessories, garments/apparels, gifts and novelties, food and beverage, furniture, home decors/accents and housewares and other bazaar items. There will also be a Filipiniana section featuring native and indigenous products from the different regions of the country. Special events for the family set Christmas Gifts Expo 2006 as among the special bazaars this year. Meanwhile, toys hobbyists and collectors as well as kids may also catch the Collectibles Christmas Fair 2006 at the Christmas Gifts Expo 2006 happening this Dec. 22-23. For details please contact 873-8202 or 873-1198 or 873-9047 or email info@ChristmasGiftsExpo.com

Colonial Cool



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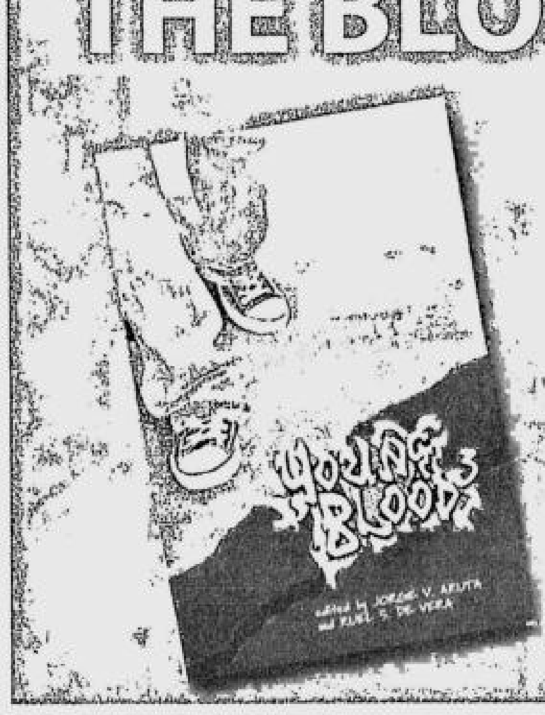
THE FORT
London

Hit the historical hotspots and experience this season's hoopla


THE BLOOD IS BACK.

The long wait is over as the hottest local anthology returns. Youngblood 3 is in the house, loaded with the best essays from 1999 to 2004 in the most concentrated Youngblood package yet. Bear witness as a generation continues its evolution. This is the Filipino youth at their most honest and most eloquent. Here are the essays that matter from the newspaper that started it all. Youngblood 3 is the young Filipino—unplugged.

Featuring essays by:
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YOUNGBLOOD

Edited by Jorge V. Aruta and Ruel S. De Vera

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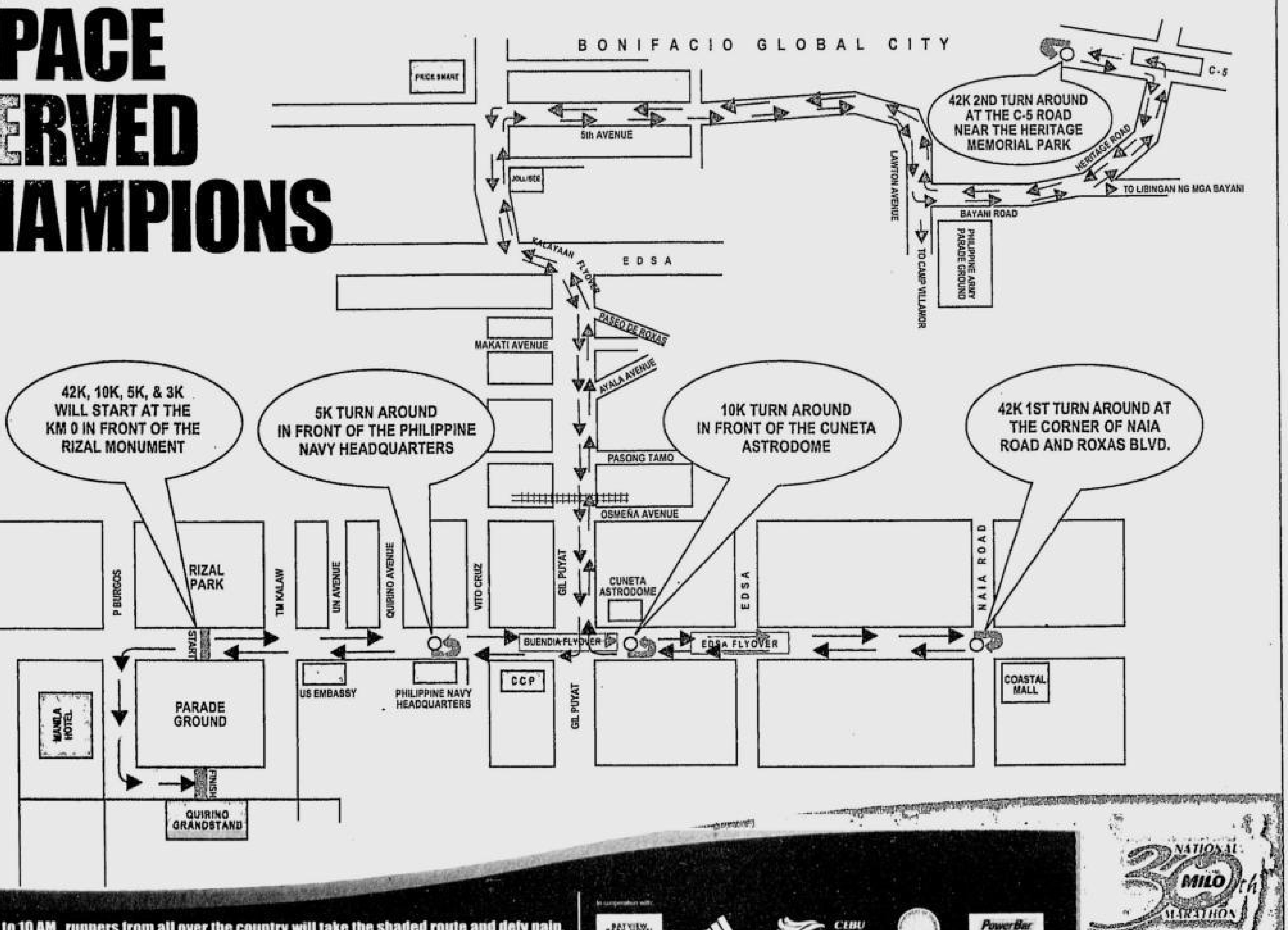
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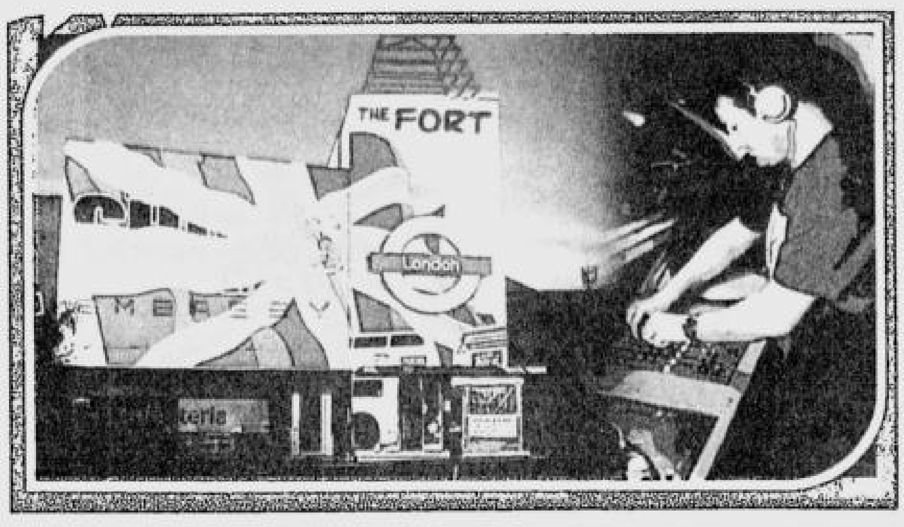
adidas
CEBU PACIFIC
PowerBar
30th NATIONAL MILO MARATHON

Colonial Cool



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24/7

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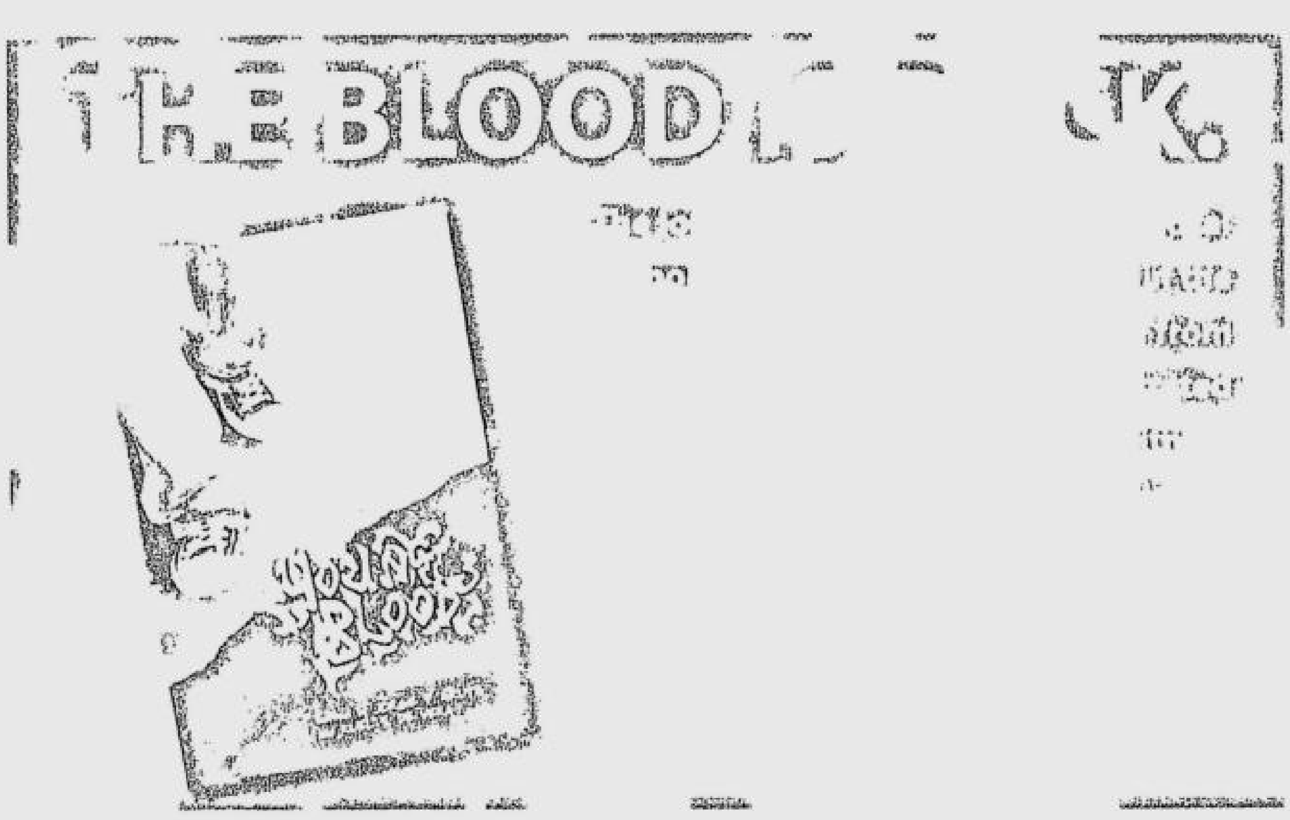

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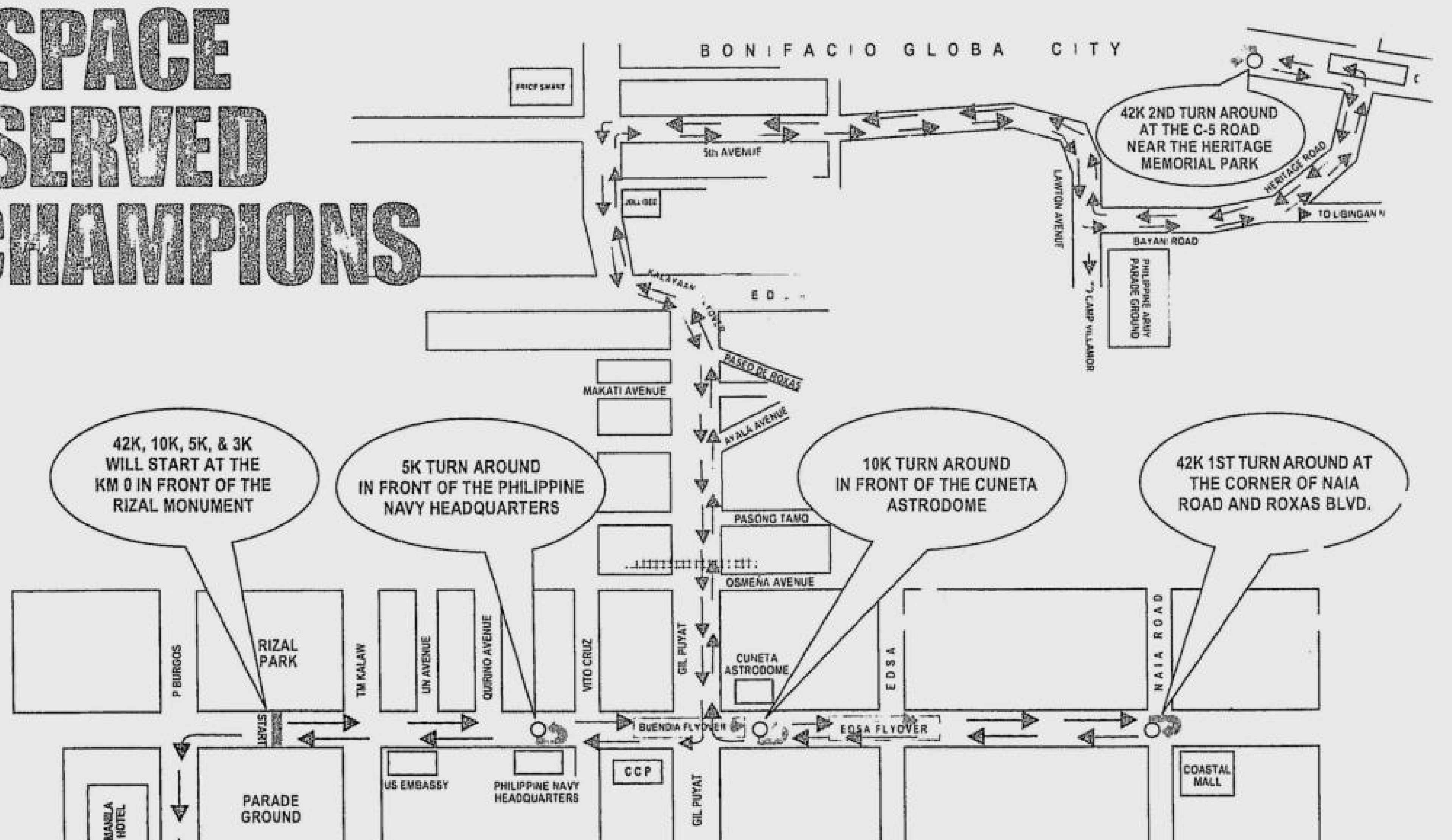
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In cooperation with:

NATIONAL MILO MARATHON

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Jon Naval and Xeng Zulueta

(Boyfriend-girlfriend)

Jon Naval

1. I have a store in Theatre Mall Greenhills. It's called Nubreed and I sell men's clothing. I'm also a DJ. I play house music and I'm in a group called NBK.

2. One year and seven months.

3. Because my fashion style is rugged and these shoes go with my taste.

4. Basically just shirts, jackets and denim.

5. They should have at least two pairs of leather shoes for those formal parties, two pairs of sneakers and a pair of flip flops for walking around.

6. I like their design—it's very original plus they are comfortable.

7. Definitely, as long as they have the right size.

8. I don't know if I would give them as a gift this year because there are many differences in style and people might not want the design I choose.

9. Very casual. I don't like to dress up too much.

Xeng Zulueta

1. Chief makeup artist for L'Oreal's Japanese cosmetic brand Shu Uemura. Shoe addict.

2. One year and seven months.

3. I like my shoes very high or very flat. Either dark or light.

4. Baby doll dresses for Christmas and New Year. I found a plum velvet baby doll dress for Christmas and a gold strapless dress for New Year.

5. Every girl should have ballet flats for day time, best worn with skinny jeans and shorts for evening. A pair of platform heels is best with minis and dresses.

6. The style is wearable and comfy. It's trendy enough but you can keep them in storage and bring them out another season.

7. No, I won't mind receiving shoes this Christmas! Bring them on.

8. I'm giving about 10 pairs of shoes this Christmas. My Shu Uemura girls tend to gravitate towards shoes as well and we all wear the same size! I think it's because we wear black to work everyday, we can only really experiment with footwear.

9. Very feminine and vintage-y. I love all things vintage. Definitely very feminine and girly.

Sole Comfort

By Ria Francisco-Prieto

THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS HAVE BEGUN! The malls are packed with people buying gifts and outfits to wear for the countless parties to be attended. So our mix-matching talent when it comes to clothes is something that is very handy especially this time of the year.

When it comes to those not-so-formal office parties or group parties, a reliable combo would be jeans and your fave pair of shoes. The top, of course, is the one you try not to repeat.

For the dressier events, your little black dress and great-looking comfy heels will be your best friend. Then use your imagination to transform the two into something that looks different each time. This trick would save you some cash that you can spend on gift-giving. You can add a thick belt on one occasion, then wearing leggings under on the next. You can add a pea coat and wear your dress to another party—the possibilities are endless. As long as you have the basics there is really no need to panic.

What's nice about this season is we get to take time out and remember the people and the relationships that matter to us the most.

For all the outfit worries we face and the gifts we want to get for our loved ones, we can find the answer in one shoe store that can cater to your needs—whether it's for keeping or giving. Mendrez is a one-stop shoe shop that offers stylish, comfortable and affordable and affordable pairs.

We asked stylish pairs to spill their shoe and holiday secrets.

QUESTIONS

1. Occupation

2. How long have you known each other?

3. Why did you pick that particular pair of Mendrez shoes?

4. What outfits will you wear during the holidays?

5. What kind of shoe should everyone have in his or her closet for the holidays?

6. What do you like about Mendrez?

7. Would you mind receiving shoes as a Christmas gift?

8. Would you give shoes as a gift?

9. What's your clothing style?

Trisha Ocampo and Chelsea Tambunting

(Aunt and Niece)

Trisha Ocampo

1. Entrepreneur, host, model

2. Chelsea's my niece. She's 11 years old.

3. The style. It's classic yet a little modern and still feminine. They're comfortable too. The style, the comfort and the fit are very important for me.

4. This year, I'd like to wear black dresses but with more detail and extraordinary cuts.

5. Deadly gold stilettos, classic ballet flats in gold or black and black patent heels.

6. Stylish and comfortable.

7. Not really, a gift is a gift. It's always the thought that counts and hopefully I like the style.

8. It depends, maybe to someone I am really close to.

9. Nothing outrageous. I stick to the basics and look at the details of the clothes, like sexy but still very feminine. On a regular day, jeans and basic white T-shirt.

Chelsea Tambunting

1. I am a fifth grade student.

2. I am the niece of Tita Tricia so I've known her practically my whole life.

3. It's comfortable. The design is nice and cute.

4. This season, I don't like black. I would like happy, hip and preppy clothes with glittery stuff like sequins.

5. This season is a happy season so gold shoes are good. They can be formal and informal and I also prefer ballet flats because they are comfortable and fancy.

6. They are comfortable and nice. Nowadays it's hard to find nice and fashionable shoes, which are sturdy and affordable at the same time.

7. I simply love shoes. I would love to receive shoes for Christmas.

8. Yes, I would give shoes this Christmas.

9. I am a hip and down-to-earth girl so I like cute, fashionable, hip and comfortable clothes.

Fortune Santos-Mercado and Marilen Faustino

(Models/Best Friends)

Fortune Santos

1. Model and banker

2. We got close four years ago when we went to Singapore to pursue modeling there.

3. They look so fun and sexy. I feel so foxy wearing them.

4. Mostly I'll wear brightly colored outfits but for the coming Christmas parties my outfits will depend on the theme. Next week I'll be attending a "Grammy Awards" party. What to wear? Hmmm.

5. Boots, definitely! And heels too!

6. Mendrez shoes are always up-to-date and they keep changing styles. But they also have classic styles you can always depend on.

7. Sure! A girl can never have too many pairs of shoes.

8. Yes, I love giving gifts that they can use. I also love shoes. So I want to give friends something that I enjoy having.

9. Comfy. Usually my mood shows in my clothing style.

Marilen Faustino

1. Model and interior design consultant

2. Six years.

3. I love heels—and the ones that make a statement. I also consider comfort. These high heels are eye-catching and comfortable.

4. I seem to be attracted to dark colors like black, dark blue, brown, silver and dark green. I will probably wear dark jeans with tops in these colors, as well as cocktail dresses that are dark and unique in cut and design.

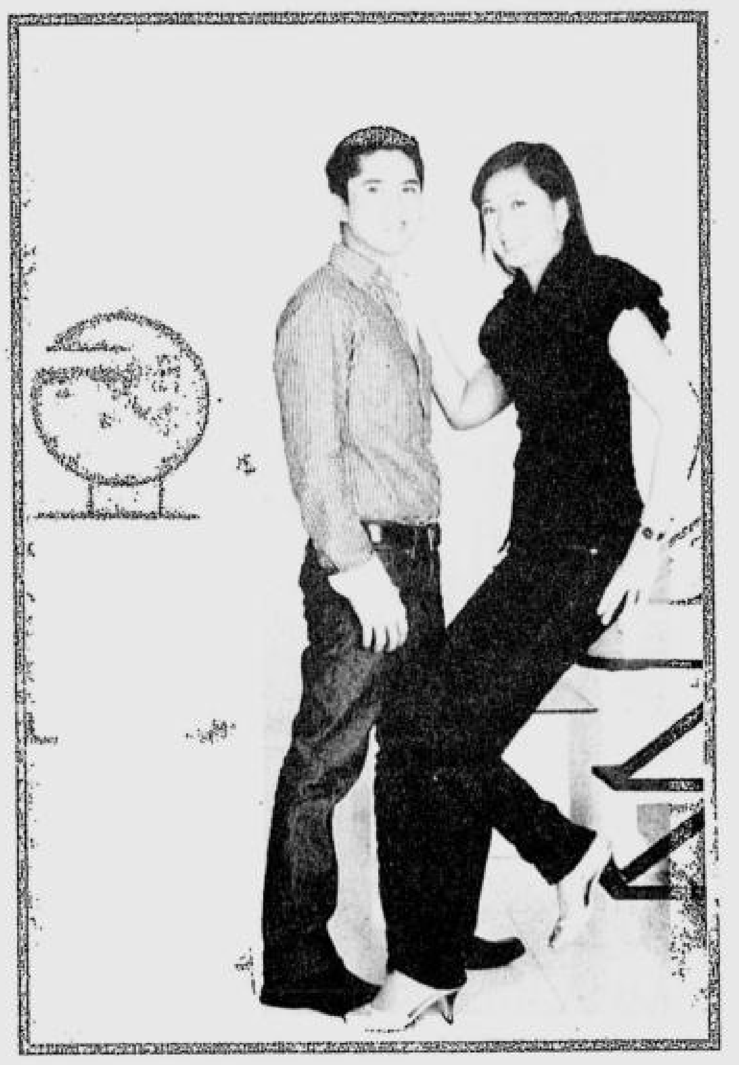
5. I think everyone should have the basic shoes like black pumps, gold and silver heels.

6. I like the variety that they have. There are high heels, shoes that are mid-height and some flat ones. All have stylish designs.

7. I'd love to receive shoes as Christmas gifts only from people who know my taste—like my model friends.

8. I would ask them first if they like the shoes.

9. I go for classic pieces with unusual cuts and design. I usually prefer clean pieces over busy ones.



Jun Jun and Vanessa Del Rosario

(Married)

Junjun del Rosario

1. I'm an independent financial consultant for wealth and estate management.

2. About 13 years.

3. I got two pairs of shoes from Mendrez, a black and a brown one. I chose the black leather shoes for their classic style. The shoe tips are just right; they're neither too square nor too pointed. The silver buckle and the mid-cut design give them a sophisticated look. You can wear these shoes with just about anything. I chose the pair of brown leather shoes for their clean and sleek look. The pointed shoe tips really mix well with today's fashion trend-slim-fit, straight cut jeans and tapered shirts.

4. For the holidays, my outfits would be more formal. I would exclude stripes and other pastel colors in my wardrobe during the holidays. Neutral colors, such as black and white, would be the getup and would stand out in the usual family picture taking. The Christmas décor should more than compensate for the lack of color in my outfits this season.

5. Guys must have a really nice pair of black leather shoes with narrow shoe tips, preferably with wooden soles, as rubber gives a more casual and less sophisticated look.

6. I like Mendrez shoes for their quality and craftsmanship. They also have so many designs that cater to different tastes and occasions.

7. I would rather buy my own pair of shoes than have it as a Christmas gift. My standards are very high and if I don't like what I receive, I would be compelled to wear it.

8. I would ask them what they want to receive.

9. My fashion style is simple, clean and customized. I believe that less is more! I really love pants without belt slots and slim-fit clothes!

Vanessa del Rosario

1. Fashion Designer for V-Clothing (For appointments, call 0917-892-5358).

2. Since 1993. We were in high school when we started going out.

3. I chose these Mendrez shoes because of the comfort and style. You can use them for just about any outfit (with dress, jeans, skirt or shorts). They're so easy to pair with. You can mix and match your clothes and can still wear these shoes.

4. I'll probably just stick with my usual outfits during the holidays: comfortable, tailored and neat looking. With all the numerous gatherings, I want to be comfortable and not have aching feet afterwards.

5. I think everyone should have a comfortable yet classic and dressy pair of shoes.

6. What I like about Mendrez is that you have a lot of styles to choose from—from classic to trendy. They cater to all types of people with different fashion styles.

7. I don't mind receiving shoes as a Christmas gift as long as they're my type and wearable. They should also come from someone I really know because it's going to be awkward if someone I barely know gives me a pair.

8. Yes, I would probably give shoes as a gift as long as I know the person's sense of style and that I'm sure the person will really wear them and not just store them in the closet.

9. My clothing style is classic with a hint of modern. I like pieces that never go out of style.

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ADVT

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SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

Text us your feedback: inquirer sat name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Constantine Maroulis, Jason Mraz lead pop-rock revivals of Queen's classics

By Rito P. Asilo

IT HAS BEEN 26 YEARS SINCE FREDDIE Mercury, Brian May, Roger Taylor and John Deacon put up the iconic British glam-rock group, Queen, but 15 years after Mercury's death (from complications from AIDS), the quartet's stellar sheen is as bright and their influence as strong as ever.

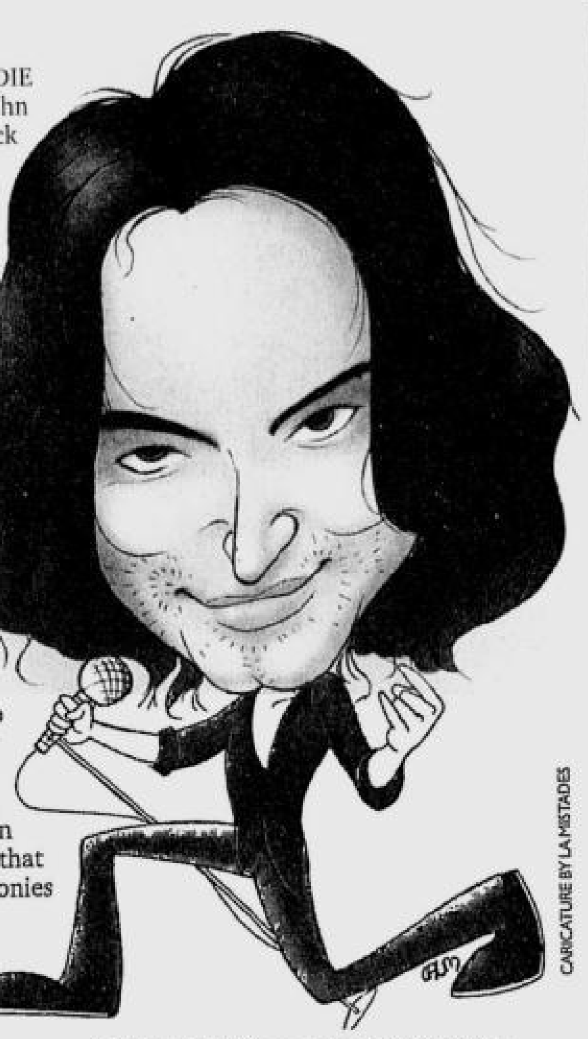
Critics may have scoffed at the boys' flashy projection and cotton-candy rock musicality early on in their fabled career, but their songs have stubbornly survived disbandment, retirement—and death.

Nostalgia

To this day, no one can dismiss "Bohemian Rhapsody," "Under Pressure" and "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" as mere musical blasts from a distant past. Amazingly, their songs have not been relegated to nostalgia and pop memorabilia—they sound as fresh and as vibrant as ever.

In the recent 16-track retrospective, "Killer Queen: A Tribute to Queen," even the group's not-so-familiar tunes prove that there's more to their sugar-coated harmonies than meets the eye—or ear.

"American Idol" alumnus, Constantine Maroulis, and pop music wordsmith Jason Mraz, deliver the album's best tracks with their sleek covers of "Bohemian Rhapsody" and "Good Old-Fashioned Lover Boy," respectively.


CARICATURE BY LA MISTADES

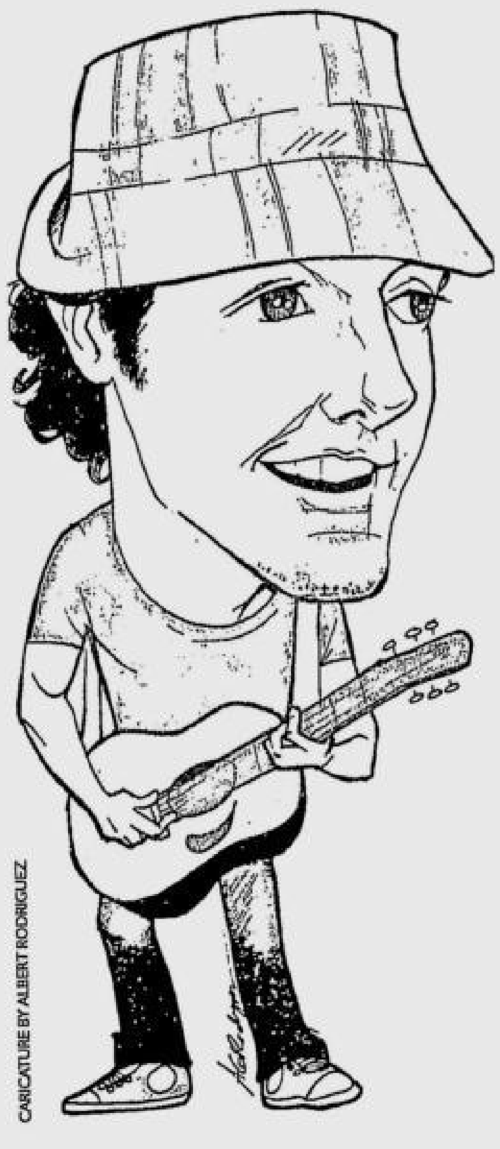
MAROULIS. His version of "Bohemian Rhapsody" would make Freddie Mercury proud.

Stage musical

In the former, Constantine teams up with the cast of the long-running West End stage musical, "We Will Rock You," in a scorching, ultraslick version that showcases Maroulis' soaring rock tenor—an interpretation that would make Freddie proud. For his part, Mraz successfully revives "Good Old-Fashioned Lover," a less-familiar ditty that's better than the original—and that's no small feat!

The diverse musicality of the lineup's interpreters makes the collection a must-have: Joss Stone makes "Under Pressure" a classy, sexy R&B number that almost causes you to forget that this is the tune that fueled the catchy licks of Vanilla Ice's hip-hop anthem, "Ice Ice Baby."

Gavin DeGraw ("Chariot") is no stranger to covers, so his above-average rendition of the collection's first track, "We are the Champions," is no surprise. Shinedown ("Fly from the Inside") and Be Your Own Pet ("Adventure") appropriately take "Tie Your Mother Down" and "Bicycle Race" to deliciously irreverent, Blink-182-like territory.


CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

MRAZ. Better than the original.

Pitch-perfect

A more sedate Sum 41 ("Hell Song") renders the pitch-perfect "Killer Queen," while Josh Kelly and Eleven (with Joshua Homme) add their own brand of alternative pop-rock to the wonderfully re-imagined "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" and "Stone Cold Crazy."

How does one match Mercury's pliant, lyrical tenor? Despite above-average renditions of "Who Wants to Live Forever" and "Play the Game," Breaking Benjamin and Jon Brion can only do so much to pep up their respective covers.

Some curious cuts: Ingram Hill's country-rock revival of "'39"; Rooney's innovative "Death on Two Legs"; Los Lobos' rock-meets-Roxy Music rendition of "Sleeping on the Sidewalk," and Antigone Rising's Led Zep-Eagles-inspired, androgen-fueled "Fat-Bottom Girls."

Very significant songs

But, the album is missing some very significant songs: Why aren't "Another One Bites the Dust" and "Seven Seas of Rhye" (the group's first song to have entered the pop charts in 1974) in the lineup?

QUEEN. Glam rock gets a reworking.

Instead, the compilation chooses to record a *second* version of "Bohemian Rhapsody" (by the Flaming Lips). You'd think that Queen didn't have enough good songs that deserved reviving!

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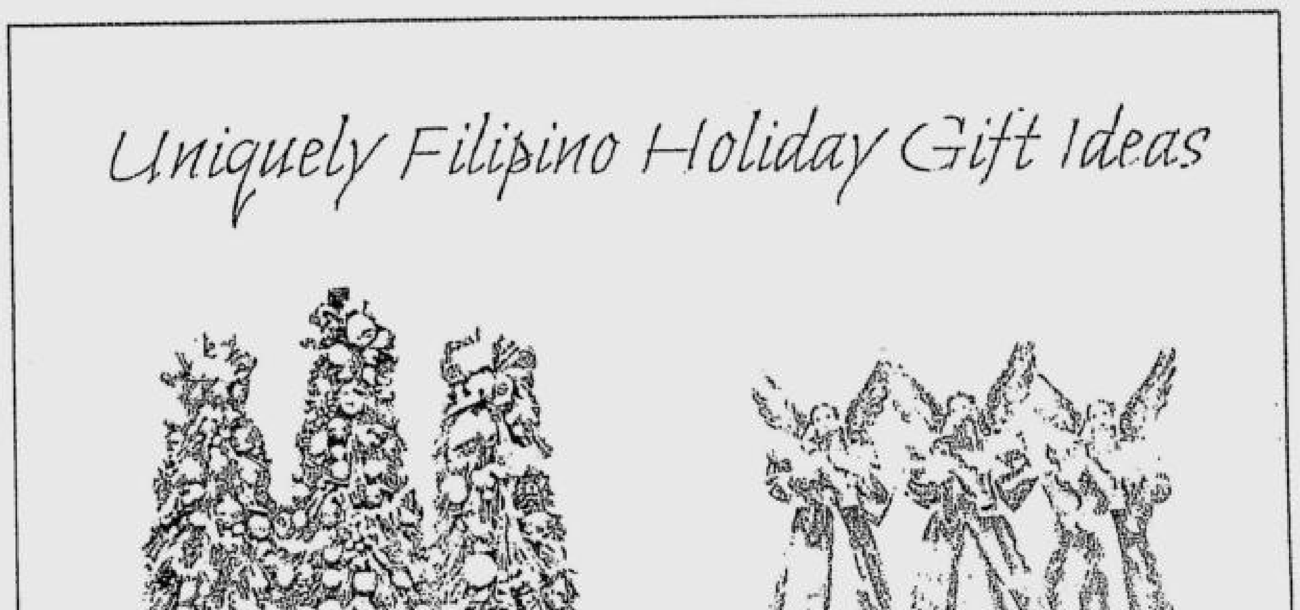
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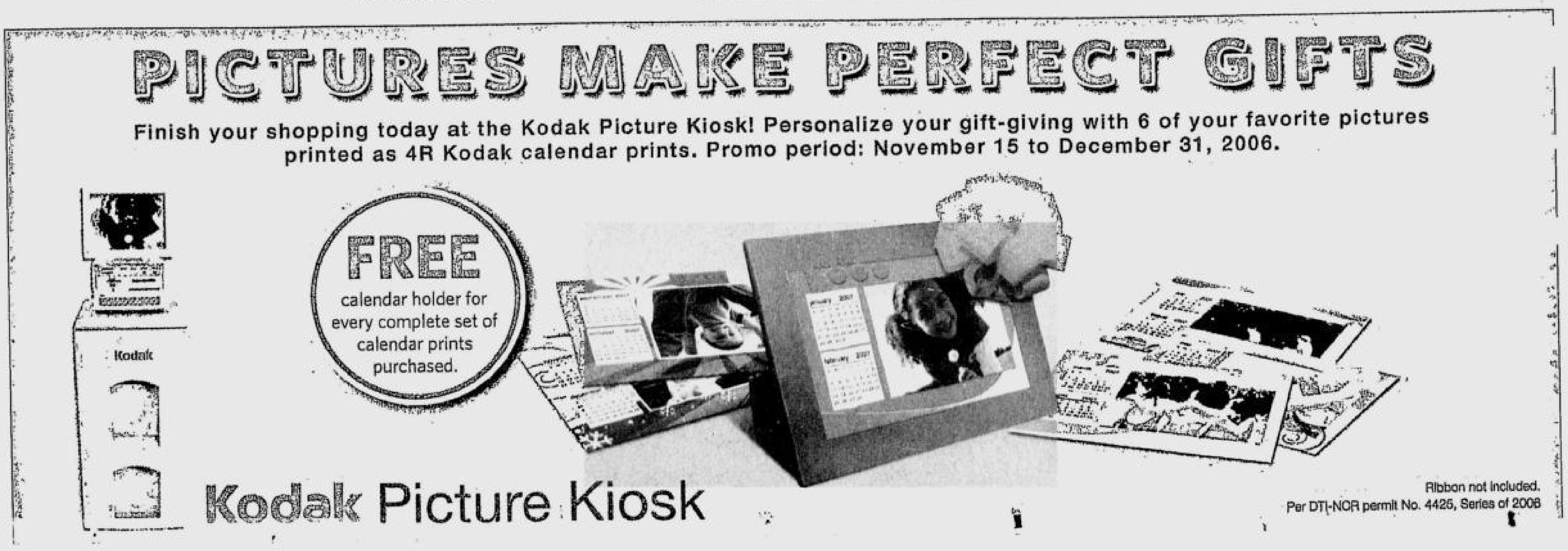
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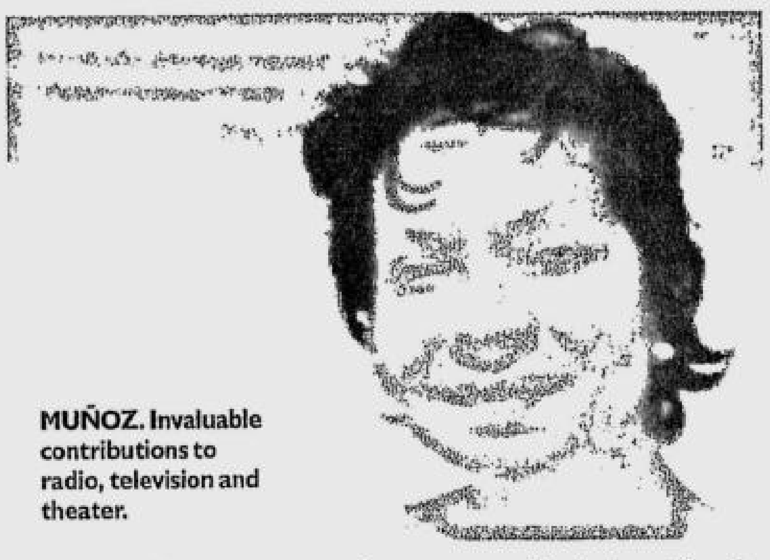
TITA MUÑOZ

A sufficiency of one on Christmas

By Behn Cervantes



MUÑOZ. Invaluable contributions to radio, television and theater.

TITA MUÑOZ IS A PHILIPPINE living treasure. She's not only a theater icon, Tita has also made invaluable contributions to the radio and TV industries.

In the early '50s, she was a contract star of Sampaguita Pictures, like Fred Montilla, and Pancho and Tita Magalona.

Theatre *aficionados* in the mid-'60s like Joey Gosengfiao, Elwood Perez and National Artist Rolando Tinio justifiably looked up to her as an industry diva.

Tinio sought her out and cast her in some of his experimental plays. He even wrote plays for her. In fact, in his admiration for her, he once wrote poems for every nook and cranny of her apartment!

Enviable combination

Tita stood out from the rest because of her enviable combination of beauty, brains and talent. And she was Class personified. She was adept in English, Spanish and Tagalog.

However, recent bouts with illness have kept her professionally inactive. Her personal life has also been limited to a few friends who still keep in touch with her for her scintillating presence and quiet wit.

I was taken aback when I recently asked Tita, "What are you doing for Christmas?" I had invited her to join my family for Thanksgiving dinner, and I naturally wondered how she would celebrate the most familial of holidays.

"I don't know," the veteran actress replied. "I have yet to get in touch with my sister-in-law, since her husband and sons are in Los Angeles. Last year, I spent it alone." Tita continued: "And New Year, too."

I wondered how hard it was for someone to live by herself on the fourth floor of Greenhills' Avalon condominium. Surely, there was merry-making all around! How did that make her feel?

Of course, I wanted to ask her if she felt sad to be alone on holidays when family and friends are supposed to be around.

Privacy

Despite fearing that I was already intruding on her privacy, I decided to ask her just the same: "Tita, how did you feel spending Christmas alone?"

Tita's answer came swiftly: "It was beautiful and marvelous! There was no maid around. It was quiet in the apartment. There wasn't anything to do. Best of all, there was nothing to prepare—no need to call anyone for this or that. After all, a person has the free will to be with family or choose to be alone. I chose to be alone.

Truly beautiful

"I enjoyed looking at the Christmas lights around Greenhills, then I prayed. So, I didn't really feel I was alone. There was Someone with me. The feeling was wonderful! It was truly beautiful, because I didn't feel abandoned. After all, being alone was a choice I made. Sometimes, I feel more alone when I am with people!"

Tita made it clear that the real meaning of Christmas isn't about the hoopla, the sumptuous meals, or the extravagant gifts that have become identified with the very commercialized Yuletide season.

Young people today no longer realize that the season is essentially a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus and all that He stood, lived and died for. He was the gift of Christmas! In that realization, Tita enjoyed the true meaning of the anniversary of Christ's birth!

Two popular musicals schedule repeat performances

PIMENTEL. Gifted and committed composer-producer.

By Jan Alexander

COMPOSER-PRODUCER LOURdes "Bing" Pimentel feels very gratified these days, because her two musical productions, "Pag-ibig sa Bayan" and "Nassan si Hesus?," are both getting invitations for repeat performances this year and in 2007.

This means that sponsors appreciate the two shows' significance and entertainment value, which is why they are presenting them in different parts of the country—as fundraisers—and because they have a lot to give and share with viewers.

Benefit

"Nassan si Hesus?" has repeats in Malolos and other places this month, and 20 more performances starting in February 2007, for the benefit of Caritas Manila.

For its part, "Pag-ibig sa Bayan" will be performed in Metro Manila, Cagayan de Oro and Davao early next year.

The moving and powerful martial law musical is also being presented in a more compact version ideal for presentation in schools, so that the country's youth will be able to better understand the significance of their parents' ordeals during one of the darkest periods in the Philippines' modern history.

What makes the two musical so durable and popular? Viewers of "Pag-ibig sa Bayan's" recent repeat performance at Meralco

TWO/ F3

Yuletide in Jose Mari Chan's heart

MONTAGE

CHAN. First Filipino recording artist to receive a double-diamond award.

THIS YULETIDE SEASON, ONE of the most popular and frequently played albums is Jose Mari Chan's "Christmas in Our Hearts." The best-selling OPM album of all time has spawned hits like "A Perfect Christmas," "Christmas Carol" and the title track.

In recognition of this unique success, the album will be awarded a Double Diamond Record citation on Dec. 10 on GMA's noontime show, "S.O.P." This is the first double-diamond award ever to be given to a Filipino recording artist.

Jose Mari will also perform at SM Mall of Asia at 5 p.m. today, and at the Podium tomorrow. His "The Ultimate Platinum Collection" will be coming out soon.

'Dora's Sing-Along Fiesta' at Glorietta

Nickelodeon's Dora The Explorer and her monkey buddy, Boots, will visit the Glorietta Mall today and tomorrow by way of the special show, "Dora's Sing-Along Fiesta."

Nickesters can expect to be entertained with songs, games and larger-than-life characters, including Funny Star and the Big Red Chicken. The show is a dynamic musical adventure that invites the participation of members of the audience.

In addition, Nickelodeon merchandise is available at the Nick Knacks retail area at Alabang Town Center's Activity Area and at te Edsa Mall, Glorietta 1, until tomorrow. On sale are role-play sets, action figures, creative activity sets and toys.

'Midsomer Murders' on Hallmark

Every Friday at 9 p.m., Hallmark Channel screens the riveting crime series, "Midsomer Murders," with ace investigator, Tom Barnaby, solving a baffling criminal case each week.

On Dec. 15, "Sins of Commission" probes the slay of a prizewinning author on the eve of a literary festival. A blackout then occurs during reception night, and a second murder takes place.

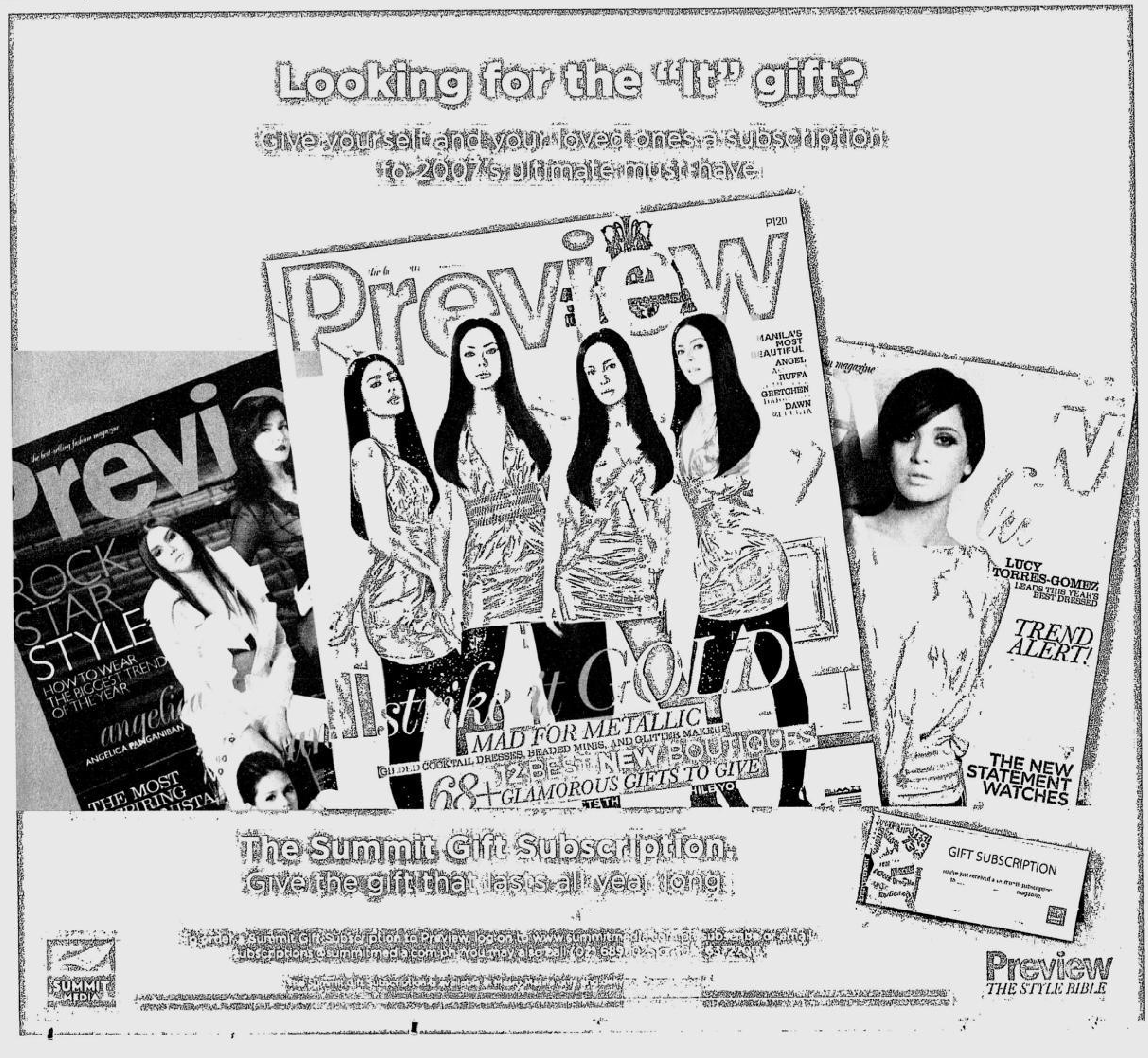
On Dec. 22, "Ghosts of Christmas Past" features another double murder, this time involving a prominent family. Barnaby has to catch the mysterious killer before another family member turns up dead.

On Dec. 29, in "The Maid in Splendour," a bartender ends up dead after trailing his girlfriend to a ruined cottage on suspicion that she has a new boyfriend.

'284 Common Mistakes in English'

Elizabeth P. Ong's new book, "284 Common Mistakes in English Made by Pinoys," would make a good Christmas gift for language buffs and people who want to

YULETIDE/ F3



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How viewers can help upgrade local entertainment

By Nestor U. Torre

AT A RECENT FORUM ON MEdia, we were asked to share tips on how members of the entertainment audience can help upgrade the local show biz and media scenes and their products.

Passive

We started by pointing out that Filipinos make up one of the most passive and accepting audiences in the world. In many other countries, viewers speak up or write in whenever they see or hear something that isn't to their liking.

We opined that the passivity of the local audience is one reason why producers and artists here feel that they can do anything they like, even if it's irresponsible, shocking or dangerous to the psychological health of young viewers.

So, if members of the audience here want local show biz and media products to improve, they have to stop being passive and start reacting productively and persuasively to the productions they view.

They should call the production companies and networks involved, and express exactly what they think. They should also write letters to newspapers to make sure that their opinions reach a much wider readership.

Diversion

In addition, viewers here have to convince themselves that "entertainment" isn't merely an innocuous diversion, but a potentially powerful change agent for good or for bad that affects many people's attitudes, behavior and belief systems.

Since entertainment works subliminally, it is more potent than many other forms of presentation and persuasion. So, viewers have to be on their guard so that they won't be seduced without their knowing it.

It's also important *not* to react to the productions we view in an exclusively critical way. We should also praise good work when we see it, to encourage competent and responsible media and show biz people to continue giving us professional and values-laden productions.

Insensitive

Similarly, viewers should know that many productions are made for the "least common denominator" of viewer, so producers generally presume that members of the local audience are uneducated, insensitive, shallow, and sometimes even stupid. Viewers who aren't as benighted as show biz people think they are should speak up for those who can't—or won't.

Members of the audience should also try to rise above the "fan" mentality that's prevalent in these parts. It's fun being a fan, but it sometimes blinds a viewer to standards that should be observed to make a show competent and responsible.

Yuletide . . .

From page F2

improve their spoken and written English.

It tackles spelling errors, mispronunciations, wrong plural forms, words often thought to be the same, brand names used as generic terms, misused words, wrong phrases, and "only in the Philippines" vocabulary.

Jollibee teams up with National Bookstore

As an early Christmas bonus, Jollibee and National Bookstore's Laking National Loyalty Program join to give loyal National customers a free Jolly spaghetti for a minimum food purchase of P200. Present your Laking National card at selected Jollibee branches in Metro Manila to avail of this delicious treat.

Movies on TV

On HBO, today at 2 p.m., "Shrek 2." 8 p.m., "Must Love Dogs." Tomorrow at 2 p.m., "Chances Are." Dec. 11 at noon, "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events." Dec. 12 at 7 p.m., "Lean on Me." Dec. 13 at 2:30 p.m., "Dolores Claiborne." 4:45 p.m., "Lorenzo's Oil." Dec. 14 at 6 a.m., "Darling Lili." 8 a.m., "The Longest Yard." Dec. 15 at 7 p.m., "After Sunset."

On Cinemax, today at 6 a.m., "Charade." Tomorrow at 2:45 p.m., "Arlington Road." Dec. 11 at 9 p.m., "The Big Chill." Dec. 12 at 6 a.m., "War and Peace." Dec. 13 at 5:05 p.m., "Cape Fear." Dec. 14 at 6 a.m., "It's a Wonderful Life." Dec. 15 at 4:50 p.m., "A Cry in the Dark." 11:20 p.m. "The Stepford Wives."

Otoniel Gonzaga

Tenor Otoniel Gonzaga teams up with Dulce and the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra in a year-end concert, "Christmas Spectacular and Immortal Arias," at the Philamlife Theater tonight. Guest performers include sopranos, Rachelle Gerodias and Camille Lopez-Molina, and flutist Christopher Oracion. Call 900-7023.

CANNON. RADA's drama teacher shares acting tips.

Q&A with Dee Cannon

Dee Cannon, head drama teacher of London's prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA), and co-director of New Voice's Singapore staging of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Aspects of Love," flew in last week to give some acting tips to the cast of NVC's "The Good Body." She will hold a special Q&A session with actors and directors on Dec. 12, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the NVC Actors Studio in Makati.

'Sa Aking Padala'

Jim Paredes has been commissioned by global money transfer leader Western Union to compose the song, "Sa Aking Padala," on the reasons behind the exodus of Filipinos to work abroad and send their hard-earned money home to improve the lives of their families.

The song also aims to inspire OFWs to retain their ties to the Philippines. Western Union will also use the Apo CD, "Pasko nApo

MISALUCHA. New album of covers.

sa Western Union," for its promotions abroad.

'Wali: The Fun Way to ABC'

Learning the ABCs has never been this fun! The educational video, "Wali: The Fun Way to ABC," is now available in video stores nationwide. It is the perfect learning supplement for young learners who are just beginning to get the hang of the letters in the alphabet. Sarah Geronimo guest stars.

Glaiza de Castro

Glaiza de Castro's career has never been as good as it is now. In GMA's new teledrama, "Asian Treasures," she is cast with Angel Locsin. In mid-December, she is portraying Quezon City Councilor Bernadette Herrera in the dramatization of her life in Channel 9's "Idolo ng Bayan." Some months back, her performance on "Maalaala Mo Kaya" was acclaimed. And she's also in the cast of "Zsa Zsa Zaturnah." Thus has Glaiza proven the effectivity of her "three Ps for success—professionalism, *pakikisama* and prayers!"

World-class film

Marilou Diaz-Abaya's world-class "Jose Rizal" is now on DVD, released by GMA Records Home Video. Schools, teachers and parents who want to inspire the children under their care would do well to get a copy of the celebrated production, which also stars Mickey Ferriols as Leonor Rivera, Monique Wilson as Maria Clara, Joel Torre, Gardo Versoza and other outstanding actors.

Lani Misalucha

Stylish diva Lani Misalucha may have moved her performance base to Hawaii, but she's still heating up the local recording scene with the success of her latest eponymous album. Scintillating cuts include "Very Special Love," "I Just Wanna Stop," "I Live for Your Love." "These Dreams, " "Love Me Again," "Come in from the Rain" and " A Certian Sadness."

'Borrowed Time'

Pop alternative band Cueshé is back with its latest single, "Borrowed Time," from its "Back to Me" album. The song, written by bassist Fritz Labrador, is about life being short, and the longing to spend the time left with the person you love.

'Dinotopia'

The fantastic lost world of "Dinotopia" is up for view on Dec. 11 to 15 only on the Hallmark Channel. Life on Dinotopia is based on long-established principles of mutual respect and the peaceful existence of human and dinosaurs. The thrilling production is a creative blend of live action and fantastic computer technology.

Two popular musicals schedule repeat . . .

From page F2

Theater share their appreciation of the acclaimed musical:

Archbishop Paciano B Aniceto, D.D., Archbishop of San Fernando, Pampanga: "The content of its story is struggle, suffering, courage and vindication. This is the story of the life of Sen. Aquilino 'Nene' Pimentel as portrayed in the musical, 'Pag-ibig sa Bayan.' People who suffer for truth and justice are credible. Senator Pimentel is credible because he was not afraid to suffer for the liberation of his country during the martial law regime. We thank the Lord for the gift of life, integrity, courage and patriotism of Senator Pimentel."

True revelation

Fr. Anton Pascual, executive director of Caritas Manila: "The musical is a true revelation of passion for love and justice of the country. Senator Pimentel's life and vision are captured vividly in the play, which emitted pure energy and inspiration for those who continue to hope that the Filipino can change and redeem himself. It's a call to action for modern-day heroes and patriots. Love of God demands love of country. No more, no less. God bless Nene, Bing and the Pimentel family."

"PAG-IBIG SA BAYAN." Incandescent theater.

Loida Nicolas Lewis: "Incandescent theater! Nene Pimentel through the crucible of martial law showed he is pure gold, and his wife, Bing, pure spirit."

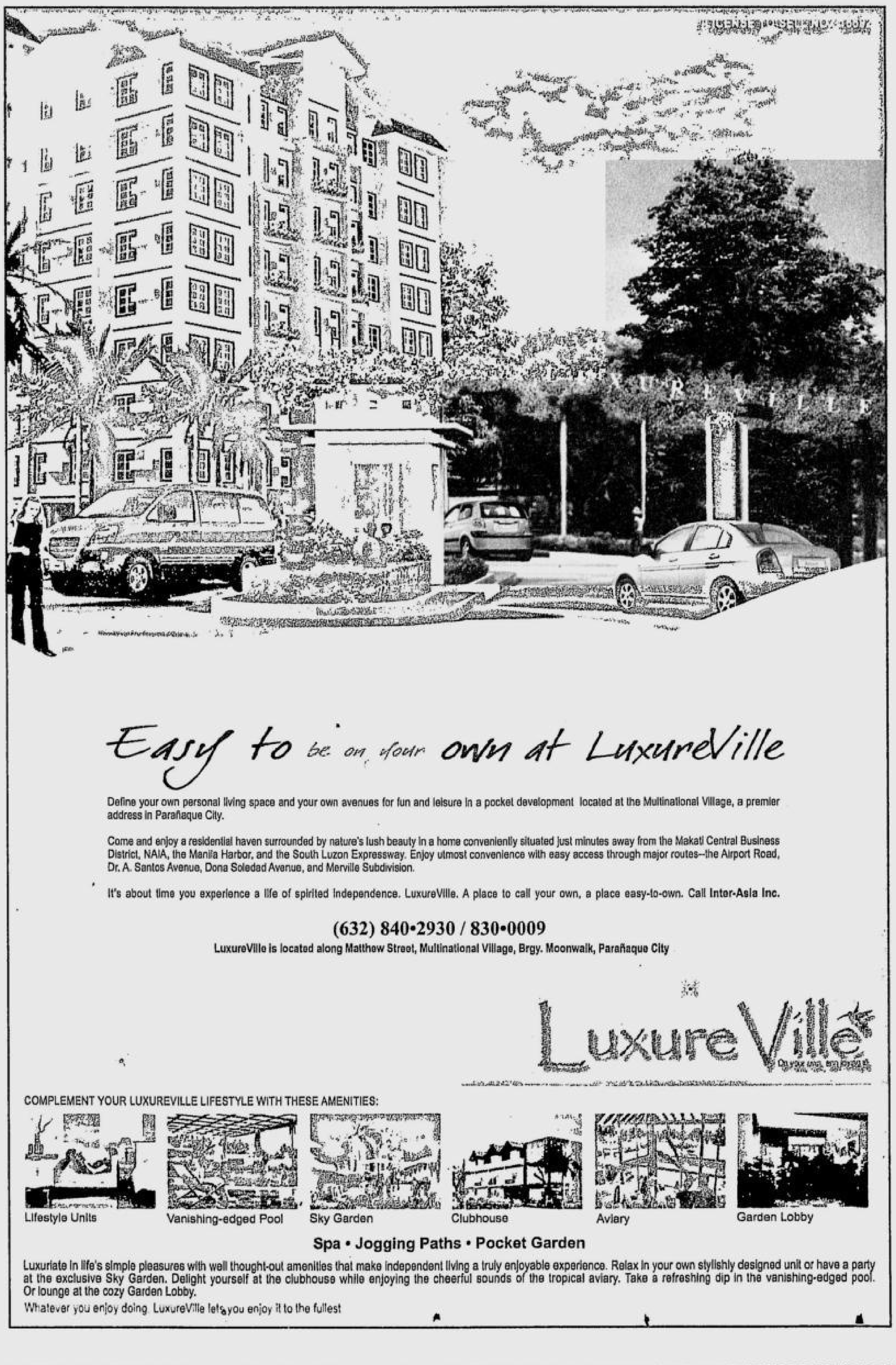
Message

Cecile Guidote Alvarez: "I'm putting the musical on radio to echo its message to a wider audience."

Nancy Cuenco, wife of Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco: "The musical was great. The leading man, Rito Asilo, was outstanding. The play delivered its message well. All in all, Nene's life and struggle should be a model for future public servants.

As for "Nassan si Hesus?," it's been performed over 70 times, an indication of how audiences all over the country value its depiction of the problems—and solutions—facing Christmas today.

If you want "Pag-ibig sa Bayan" or "Nasaan si Hesus?" to be performed in your locality or school, call Ruby at 852-7504 or 0921 406-8055, or Andy at 780-9210.



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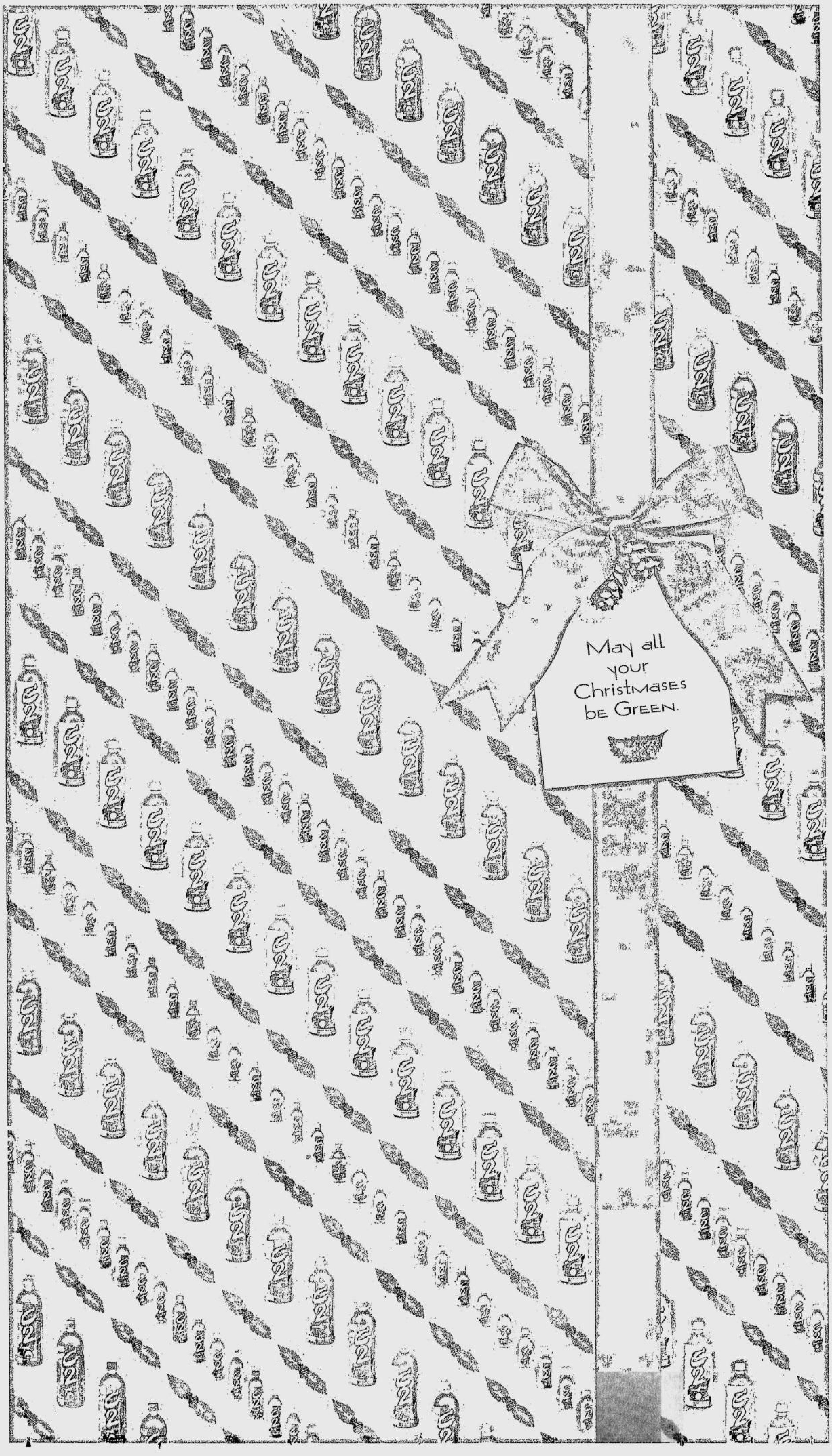

May all your Christmases be Green.

IN THIS ISSUE
FORUM: 'Why do you like watching Koreanovelas?' /G3

SATURDAY *Special*

Outstanding celebrities deserve viewers' gratitude

By Nestor U. Torre

NOW THAT IT'S ONLY FOUR Saturdays to Christmas, we would like to express our Yuletide thanks to the show biz people who have done good, creative and responsible work this year.

After all, we, the members of the entertainment audience, benefit from their exceptional performances, so we really do want to articulate our gratitude for their decision to back the prevailing tide of mediocrity and irresponsibility that has the local show biz scene in cynical thrall.

Impersonation

First off, let's hear it for **Willie Nepomuceno**, who quietly but resolutely hews to a high standard in his demanding field of impersonation.

Willie isn't just a gifted performer, he has an admirable respect for his craft and his audience, and gives them nothing short of the best he's capable of—and, given his expertise and experience, that's a lot!

—Which is why Willie has remained at the top of his field for decades. Thanks, Willie. May you continue to inspire other impersonators to keep stretching their limits and thus constantly surprise themselves and their audience.

On the distaff side, we're very glad that **Tessie Tomas** has decided to mark her 25th anniversary in the biz by stepping out of semi-retirement and resuming her live-performance career by way of her recent series of shows.

We trust that we'll be hearing from Tessie from here on in, because she's every bit the artist and perfectionist Willie is. And we're grateful, too, for Tessie's involvement in NGOs, which does a lot to counter the pervasive impression that show biz luminaries shine only for themselves.

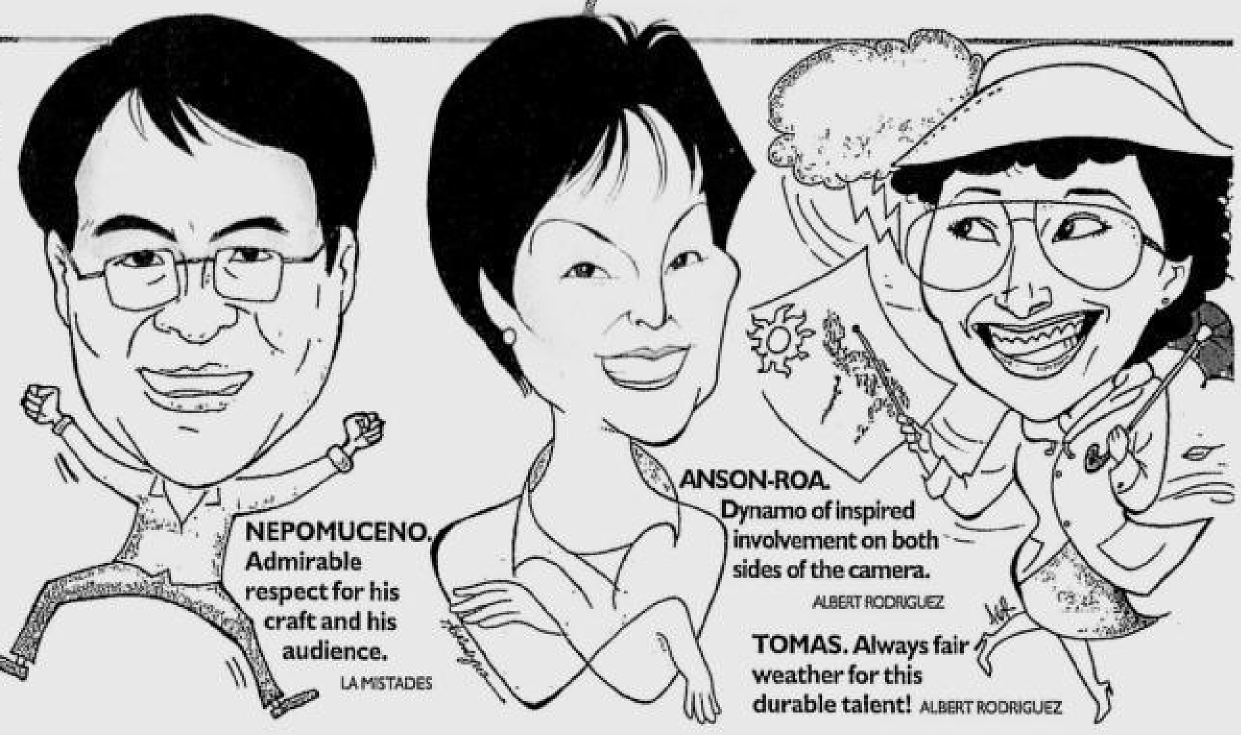
Thanks, too, to that dynamo of inspired involvement both in front of and behind the cameras—**Boots Anson-Roa**. Not only is Boots the moving spirit behind the all-important Movie Workers Welfare Foundation, but she's also busy as an actress onstage, on TV and in the movies. And, she teaches, too!

Ability

Even better, her ability as an actress has improved and deepened through the years, and she's getting some of her best notices at this late stage of her performing career.

Boots is also an inspiration to many because, despite her decades-long success in the biz, she has remained humble, giving and focused—a very rare achievement in the rat

OUTSTANDING/ G3

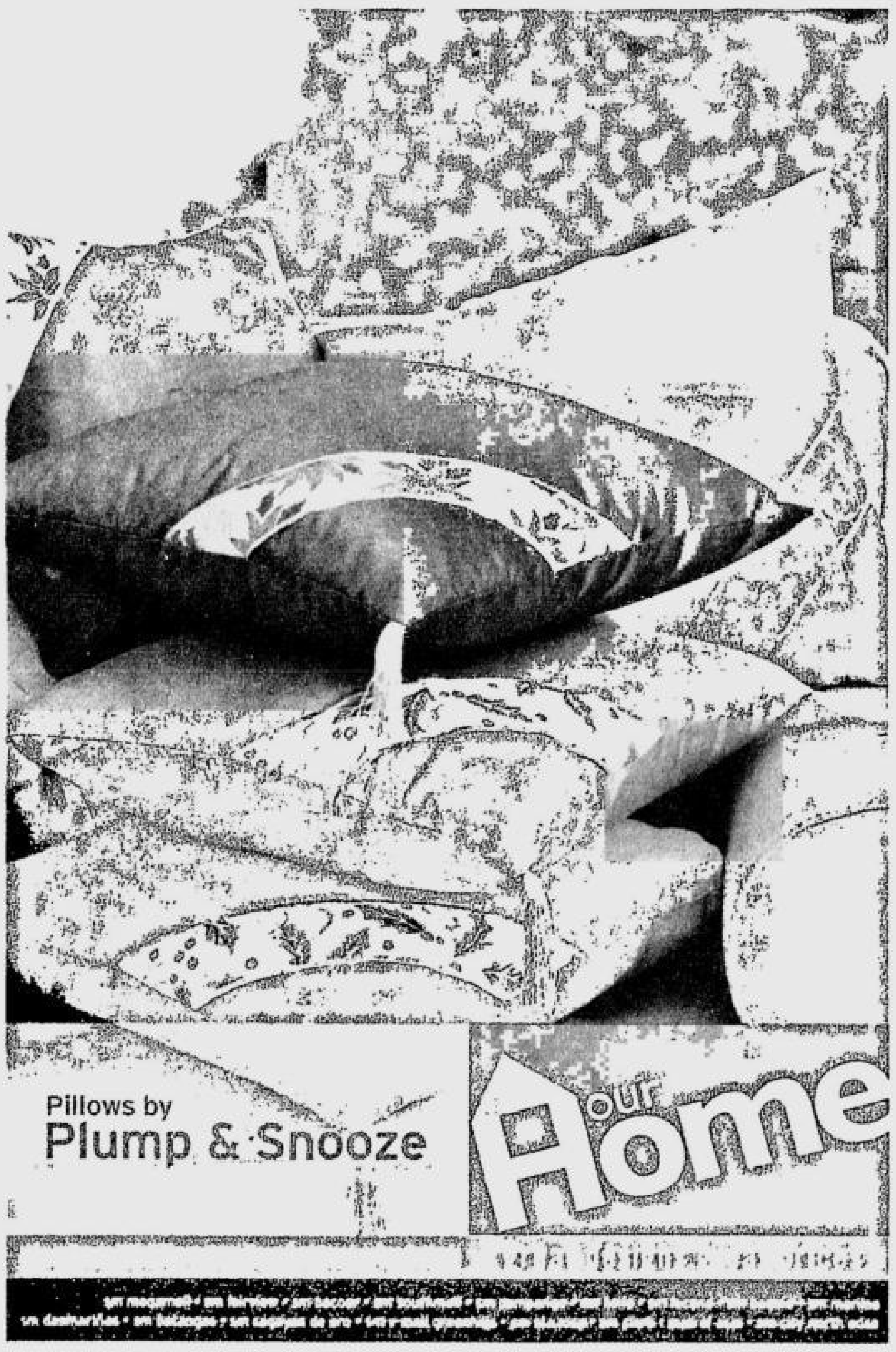


NEPOMUCENO. Admirable respect for his craft and his audience. LA MISTADES

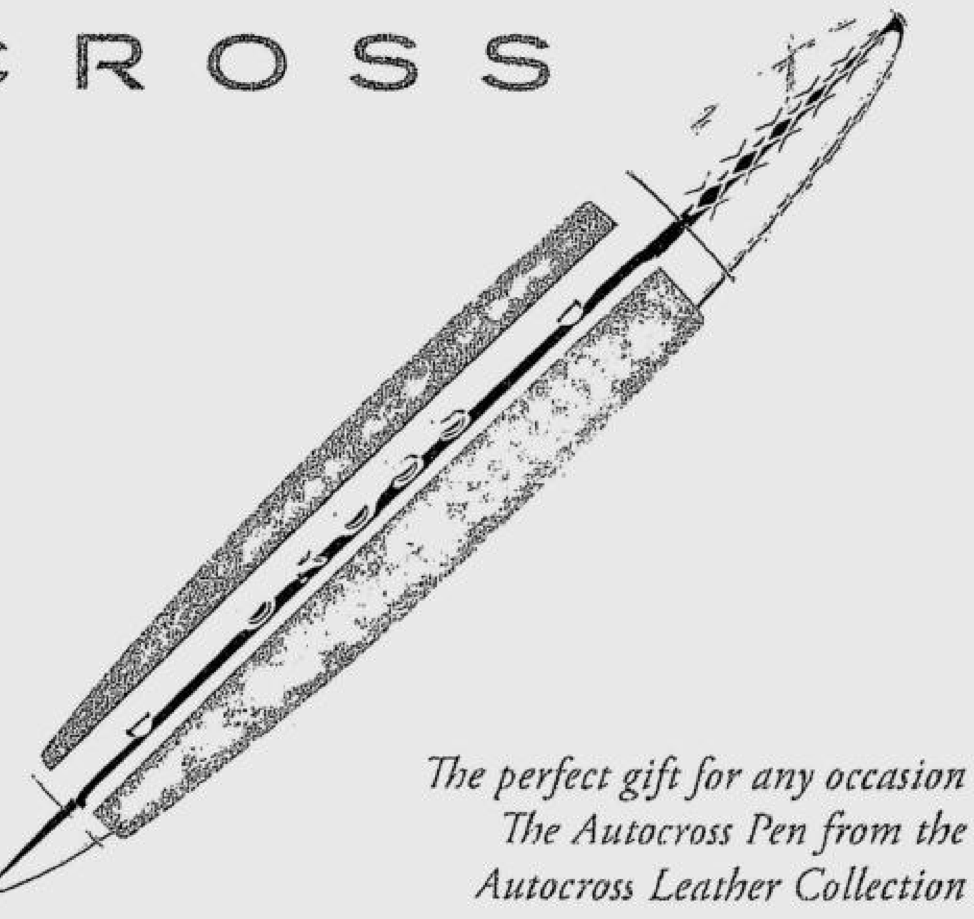
ANSON-ROA. Dynamo of inspired involvement on both sides of the camera. ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

TOMAS. Always fair weather for this durable talent! ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Smart Buddy Ang Saya!
This Is It Na Talaga!
Vote Na For Your Favorite
Philippine Idol
To vote for your Idol, text to
Voting starts at the end of the show to Sunday 12:30 AM only.
All votes outside of this period shall not be counted. P2.50 will be charged per vote.
Your final 12's hit song "Kaleidoscope World" is now here!
Get it as your Caller Ringtune or Truetone!
For Caller Ringtune, Text RING ADD 105571 to 286
For Truetone, Text TRUE KWORLD to 286
SONY BMG
For more downloads
IDOL 483
P2.50/text
Also available to subscribers.
Dahil Smart Tayo
Philippine Idol™ FremantleMedia Ltd. & 19 TV Ltd. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4244, Series of 2006.



Pillows by Plump & Snooze
Our Home



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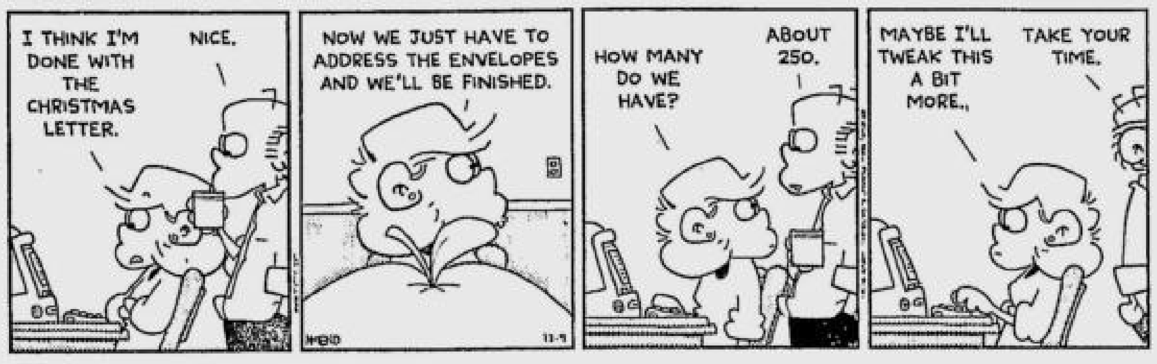
This Christmas, choose color.
CARONIA nail polish

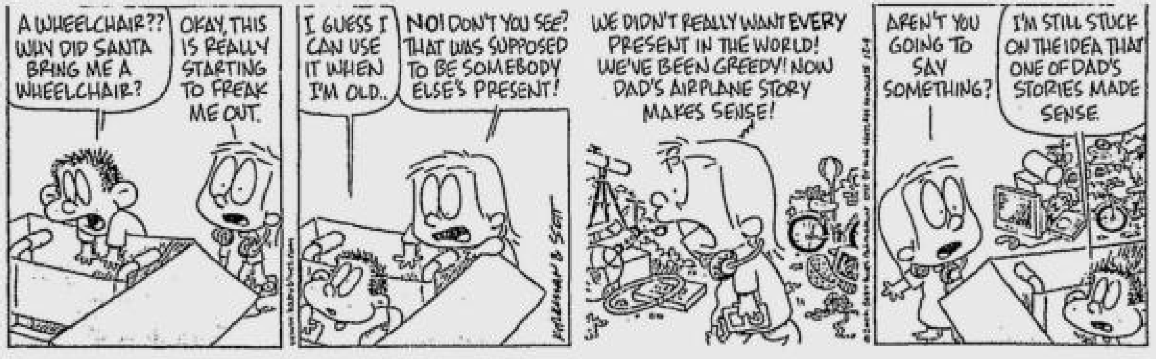
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I THINK I'M DONE WITH THE CHRISTMAS LETTER.
NICE.
NOW WE JUST HAVE TO ADDRESS THE ENVELOPES AND WE'LL BE FINISHED.
HOW MANY DO WE HAVE?
ABOUT 250.
MAYBE I'LL TWEAK THIS A BIT MORE.,
TAKE YOUR TIME.

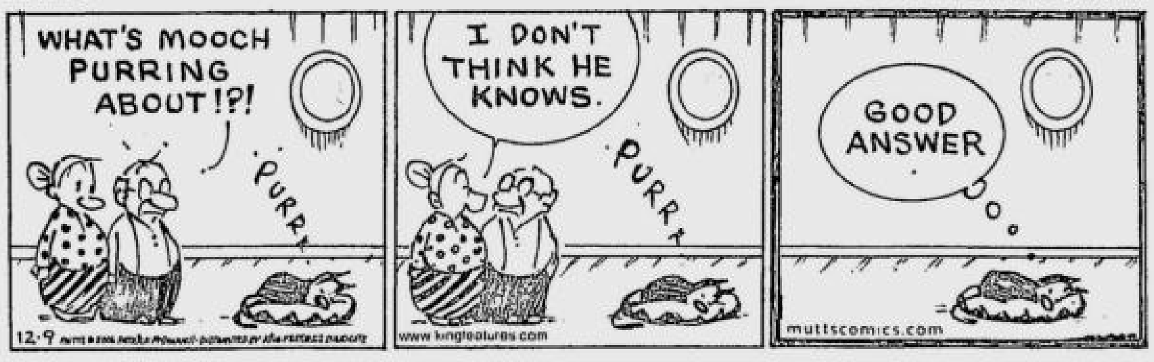
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


A WHEELCHAIR?? WHY DID SANTA BRING ME A WHEELCHAIR?
OKAY, THIS IS REALLY STARTING TO FREAK ME OUT.
I GUESS I CAN USE IT WHEN I'M OLD..
NO! DON'T YOU SEE? THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SOMEBODY ELSE'S PRESENT!
WE DIDN'T REALLY WANT EVERY PRESENT IN THE WORLD! WE'VE BEEN GREEDY! NOW DAD'S AIRPLANE STORY MAKES SENSE!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO SAY SOMETHING?
I'M STILL STUCK ON THE IDEA THAT ONE OF DAD'S STORIES MADE SENSE.

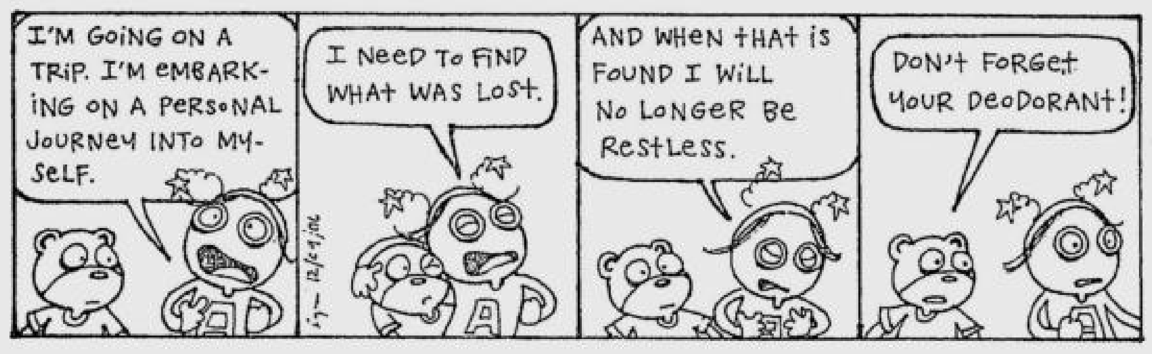
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT'S MOOCH PURRING ABOUT!?!
PURR
I DON'T THINK HE KNOWS.
PURR
GOOD ANSWER
12·9
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com

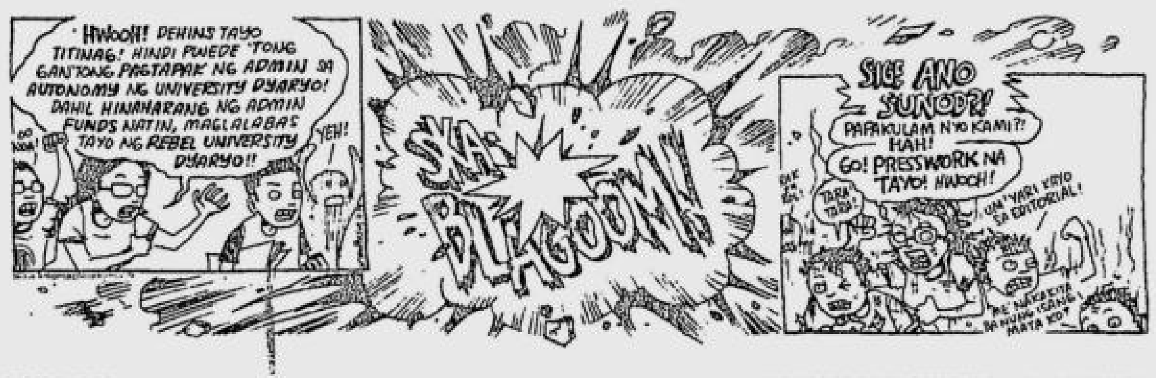
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M GOING ON A TRIP. I'M EMBARKING ON A PERSONAL JOURNEY INTO MYSELF.
I NEED TO FIND WHAT WAS LOST.
AND WHEN THAT IS FOUND I WILL NO LONGER BE RESTLESS.
DON'T FORGET YOUR DEODORANT!

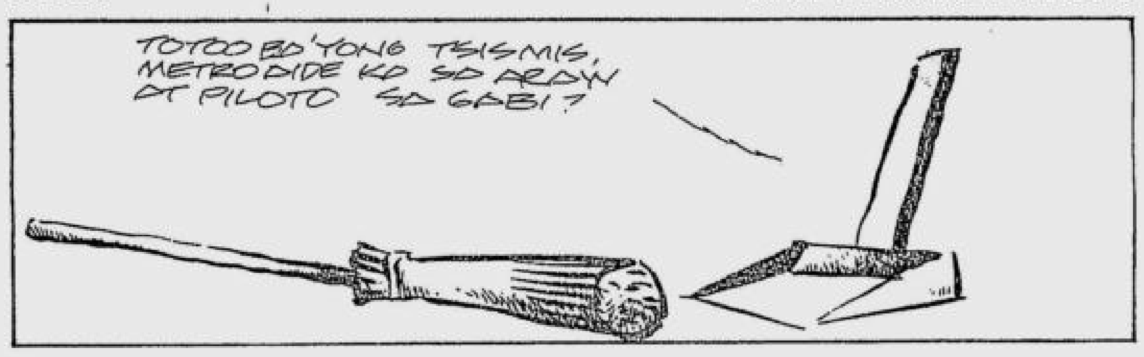
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOO!! DEHINS TAYO TITINAG! HINDI PWEDE 'TONG GANTONG PAGTAPAK NG ADMIN SA AUTONOMY NG UNIVERSITY DYARYO! DAHIL HINAHARANG NG ADMIN FUNDS NATIN, MAGLALABAS TAYO NG REBEL UNIVERSITY DYARYO!!
YEH!
SKA-BLAGOOM!!
SIGE ANO SUNOD?!
PAPAKULAM N'YO KAMI?! HAH!
GO! PRESSWORK NA TAYO! HWOOH!
TARA TARA!
UY YARI KAYO SA EDITORIAL!

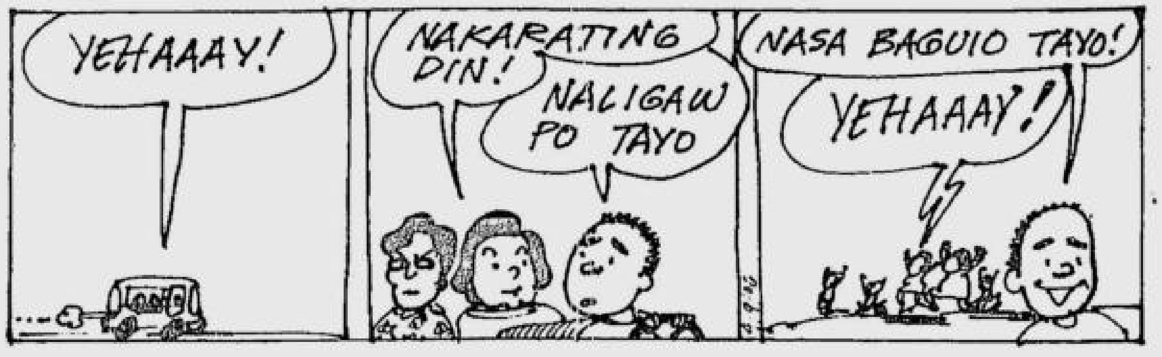
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TOTOO BA 'YONG TSISMIS, METRO AIDE KA SA ARAW AT PILOTO SA GABI?

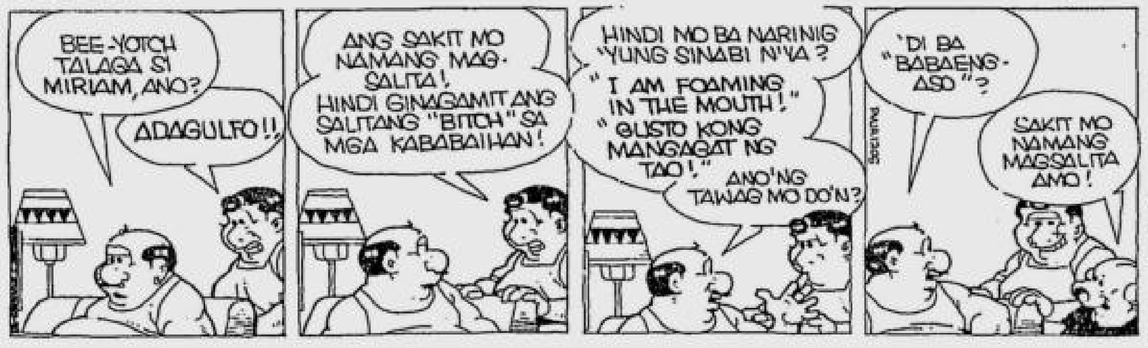
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


YEHAAAY!
NAKARATING DIN!
NALIGAW PO TAYO
NASA BAGUIO TAYO!
YEHAAAY!

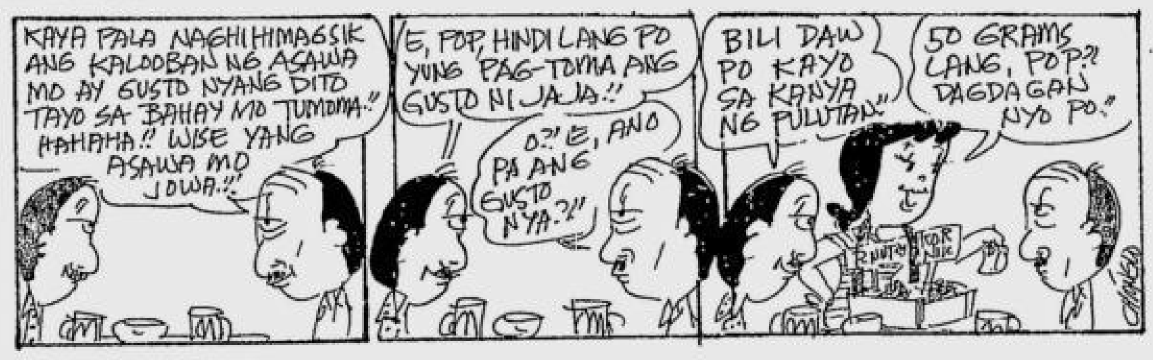
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BEE-YOTCH TALAGA SI MIRIAM, ANO?
ADAGULFO!!
ANG SAKIT MO NAMANG MAG-SALITA! HINDI GINAGAMIT ANG SALITANG "BITCH" SA MGA KABABAIHAN!
HINDI MO BA NARINIG 'YUNG SINABI N'YA? "I AM FOAMING IN THE MOUTH!" "GUSTO KONG MANGAGAT NG TAO!"
ANO'NG TAWAG MO DO'N?
'DI BA "BABAENG-ASO"?
SAKIT MO NAMANG MAGSALITA AMO!

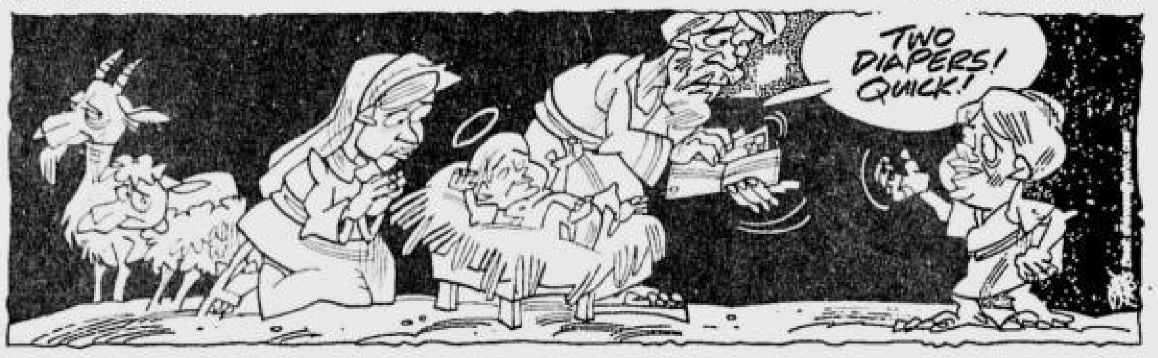
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KAYA PALA NAGHIHIMAGSIK ANG KALOOBAN NG ASAWA MO AY GUSTO NYANG DITO TAYO SA BAHAY MO TUMOMA!! HAHAHA!! WISE YANG ASAWA MO JOWA!!
E, POP, HINDI LANG PO YUNG PAG-TOMA ANG GUSTO NI JAJA!!
O?! E, ANO PA ANG GUSTO NYA?!
BILI DAW PO KAYO SA KANYA NG PULUTAN!
50 GRAMS LANG, POP?! DAGDAGAN NYO PO.!

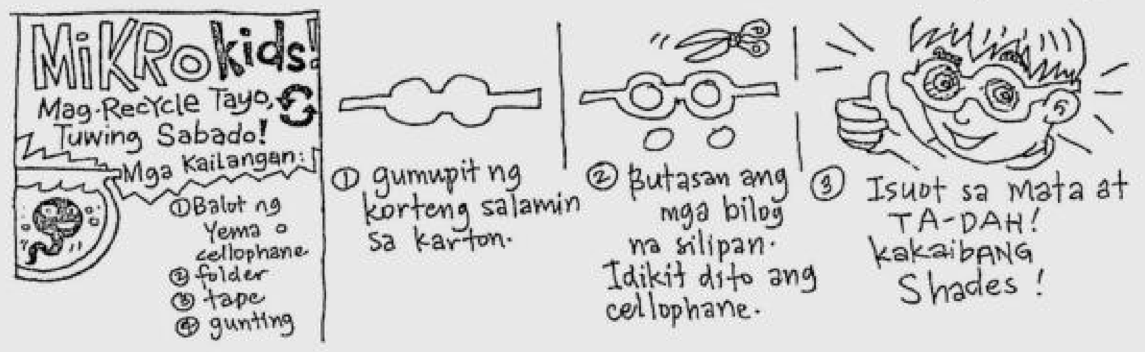
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


TWO DIAPERS! QUICK!

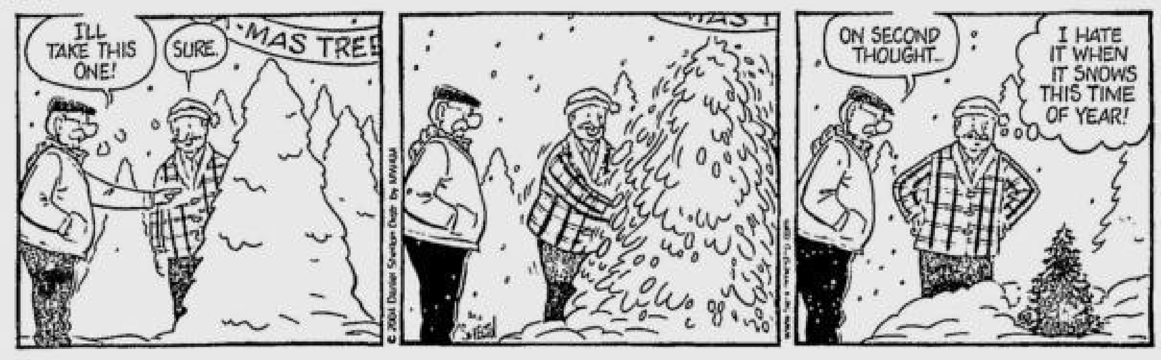
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKROkids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
① Balot ng Yema o cellophane
② folder
③ tape
④ gunting
① gumupit ng korteng salamin sa karton.
② Butasan ang mga bilog na silipan. Idikit dito ang cellophane.
③ Isuot sa mata at TA-DAH! kakaibang Shades!

BEN

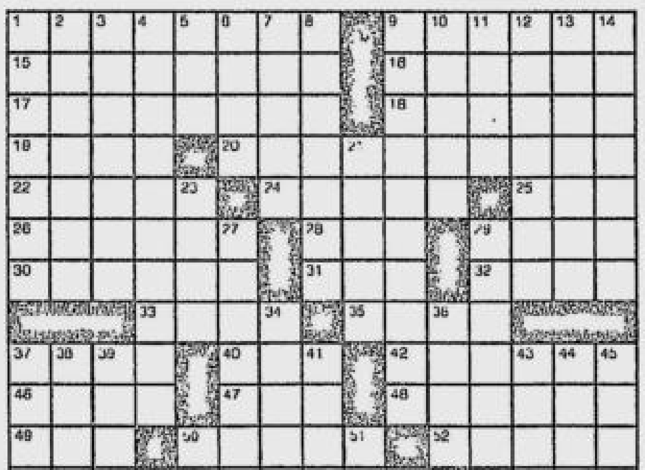
BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'LL TAKE THIS ONE!
SURE.
-MAS TREE
ON SECOND THOUGHT...
I HATE IT WHEN IT SNOWS THIS TIME OF YEAR!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Like Aspen soirees
9 Sire
15 Striking
16 Bird at Camden Yards
17 Set apart for a purpose
18 Some Texas tycoons
19 Resting atop
20 Singing style with speech rhythms
22 Ship of the desert
24 Play people
25 Find fault constantly
26 Once upon a time
28 Half of CIV
29 Small arachnid
30 Catch sight of from afar
31 Hammarskjold of the U.N.
32 Poetic tributes
33 Object of adoration
35 Detective Charlie
37 Summit
40 Tourist's guide
42 Steps
46 The one here
47 Wrath
48 Surgeon's stitch
49 Owns
50 Madden
52 Journalist Shriver
53 Facing extinction
56 Deprived
57 Tropical rodent
58 Get too thin
60 Curdling substance
61 Ominous
62 African fly
63 Soft-shell clams

DOWN
1 Offered as proof
2 Make ready
3 Protective hemispheres for antennas
4 High rank and repute
5 Pouchlike structure
6 Celebrated actor
7 Passed bad checks
8 Passionless
9 Stage illumination
10 Opera songs
11 Pinball goof
12 Manlike creature
13 Lift
14 Bridge misplays
21 Of a pelvic bone
23 Conrad's "__ Jim"
27 Man from Laramie
29 Economic stabilization theory
34 Extensive
36 Cuckoopint
37 Fundamentally
38 Dons fresh duds
39 Botched
41 Noblewoman
43 Gilded
44 Wanderer
45 Ushers
50 Feeds the pot
51 Send in payment
54 "Charley's __"
55 Hamlet, for one
59 U.S. undercover outfit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By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH
12/9/06

Friday's Puzzle Solved

L	E	A	N	■	T	U	R	B	A	N	■	S	A	C
A	R	N	O	■	O	N	E	I	D	A	■	H	H	H
P	U	T	O	N	E	S	F	O	O	T	■	A	M	A
S	P	I	K	E	L	E	E	■	P	I	C	K	E	T
E	T	C	■	W	E	A	R	■	T	O	N	E	■	■
■	■	■	B	E	S	T	■	B	O	N	S	A	L	L
W	A	G	E	R	S	■	C	A	R	S	■	L	O	O
A	S	I	A	■	■	E	D	D	■	■	W	E	D	S
D	A	V	■	O	L	E	S	■	B	A	R	G	E	S
S	P	E	N	C	E	R	■	S	E	X	Y	■	■	■
■	■	A	R	A	B	■	G	E	R	I	■	E	R	A
S	A	H	A	R	A	■	E	N	N	O	B	L	E	S
A	L	A	■	I	N	O	N	E	S	M	O	U	T	H
I	O	N	■	N	O	D	I	C	E	■	O	D	I	E
L	E	D	■	A	N	D	E	A	N	■	B	E	E	S

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12/9/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You live life with your own brand of panache and flair! (You're a romantic at heart.) To you, life is an adventure. You're attracted to daring exploits, and you're comfortable being the star of the show. High drama and flash accompany you everywhere. (You want to be a hero.) In the year ahead, you will face an important choice. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Felicity Huffman, actress; Judi Dench, actress; John Malkovich, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today you feel sympathy for someone who lives far away or in another country. You have a genuine concern for those who have a different background from yours

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're willing to share what you have with others today. Discuss joint holdings and decide what is best for all and fair to those who need help the most.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You view close friendships and partnerships in very idealistic terms today. But are your feet on the ground? You might be putting someone up on a pedestal.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Cooperation with coworkers and people you do business with is easy to establish today. People are gently sympathetic with each other. It's a good thing.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might feel romantically attached to somebody today. New relationships have some of you very starry-eyed! (Romance is everything for a Leo.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): A family member who is in need might tug at your heartstrings today. You want to help loved ones if you can. You might see new ways to make your home scene more attractive and beautiful.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Don't worry if you spend a good part of today day-dreaming or wishful thinking. It's in the stars. Your imagination is really turned on today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might be tempted to spend money on something luxurious and beautiful today. If you can afford it, why not? If you can't afford it, don't do it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your inner idealism is strongly aroused today. Someone might ask for your help. It's good to respond, but you don't have to be a doormat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're willing to put the interests of others before your own today. You find it easy to be selfless. You're genuinely concerned about the problems that others have.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): A friend might need your help today. If you can be of any assistance, you will do so. (Friendship matters a great deal to Aquarians.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): If you can persuade a parent, boss or anyone in power to be charitable to those who are needy, you'll feel a great sense of satisfaction today. If you have this kind of influence, use it.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

					7	3		
	8					9	4	
1	3		4		6			
9		2				5		
		7				6		9
			8		3		1	5
	5	3					8	
		1	2					

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/09

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	5	2	7	9	6	4	3	1
9	4	3	5	8	1	2	6	7
1	7	6	2	3	4	8	5	9
6	3	7	9	1	2	5	8	4
5	1	8	4	6	3	7	9	2
2	9	4	8	5	7	3	1	6
3	2	9	6	4	5	1	7	8
7	8	5	1	2	9	6	4	3
4	6	1	3	7	8	9	2	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

FORUM

'Why do you like watching *Koreanovelas*?'

By Noelani Torre

WHAT IS IT ABOUT KOREANOVELAS? IF you're a non-Koreanovela watcher, you've probably asked this question more than once, what with the proliferation of Koreanovelas on our local channels.

The best way to find out what's appealing about them is to catch an episode yourself, but you can check out these comments from some fans:

"MY LITTLE Bride" and other series sustain their supremacy on the small screen.

Amnesia

"I like watching Koreanovelas *kasi hindi* typical *ang mga* plot *nila—may mga bagong nangyayari, 'di gaya ng* amnesia effect *sa* typical *telenovela* stories. *At saka, hindi nila pinapahaba ang istorya. Kung tapos na, tapos na. Mas magaling sila sa* comedy, *nakakatawa talaga!*"

–Andrea Gomez, 21, Quezon City

"I *don't* like watching *telenovelas*, but I like watching Koreanovelas. *Telenovelas* are boring, Koreanovelas are fun! They're more unpredictable. And the girls are cuter, too."

–Mario Samonte, 19, Bulacan

"'Cause you'll never know what's going to happen next. In local *telenovelas*, first show *pa lang*, you already know what's going to happen in the end. In Koreanovelas, they don't have that stereotypical *telenovela* plot. Sometimes it starts out sad, and then it's going to turn into a comedy, and vice versa. Their plots are always different. They also have cute actors (like Kwon Sang Woo!)."

–Marie Gentil, 25, Makati City

Understated comedy

"*Maganda ang* soaps *nila, hindi puro* love story. *Yung* 'Jewel in the Palace,' for example, *'di naman tungkol sa* love, *kundi tungkol sa* career *ng bida. Mas magaling silang magpatawa kasi kaya nila ang* understated comedy. *Ang mga* actors *nila, kayang maging* goofy, *'di takot na magmukhang pangit. At saka,* of course, *iba din ang* culture *nila kaya marami kang matututuhan.*

–Lalaine Marasigan, 26, Novaliches

"*Masyadong* melodramatic *ang Pinoy,* corny *na! Yung* Koreanovelas, either *seryoso* or comedy, *kumbaga sa* music, easy listening *lang. Gusto ko ang* comedy *nila kasi* lighthearted."

–Mica Penalosa, 27, Quezon City

"Koreanovelas are more interesting. You don't really know what's going to happen next. I watched one series that didn't even have a happy ending! Its main character died. It was depressing—but in a good way. They don't do just straight drama or comedy. Their dramas are sometimes funny, and their comedies are sometimes sad."

–Edwin Corpuz, 30, Los Baños

Facial expressions

"*Hindi kasi sila* corny *kagaya ng mga telenovela.* Funny *ang* facial expressions *ng actors nila. Laging may* sense *ang* story. *Kaso nga lang, palaging may namamatay* due to cancer."

–Klissly Salak, 22, Kalookan City

"JEWEL IN THE PALACE." Not just about love, but career, as well.

"*Nakakasawa na kasi ang* local and Spanish *telenovelas. Lagi na lang may mahirap na bida na magiging mayaman,* etc. *Maraming 'di kapani-paniwala—may nagkaka-*amnesia, *may mga kapatid na di magkakilala, mga mamamatay kunwari—nakakasawa! Ang* Koreanovelas, *kakaiba. Magugulat ka kaya nakakatuwa. Mas mabilis pa ang* development *ng* story, *kaya 'di ka magsasawa sa kahihintay.*"

–Marivic Lim, 45, Manila

Very romantic

"I like their different plots and twists. I like the fact that they don't have the usual conflict or ending. *Hindi lang* love triangle, *meron ding* love square! They think of the most exciting scenes—like 'Full House'—it has very funny scenes. You're always on tenterhooks *kung sino talaga ang makakatuluyan ng bida.* They're not afraid to pursue any storyline. *Gusto ko rin yung* cultural aspect ng Koreanovelas—*ang mga naiibang* marriage customs, the dresses, etc."

–Li Huey Ying, 29, Quezon City

"Cute *yung* guys sa Koreanovelas. *Nakaka*-relate *ako sa* love stories. They're always sentimental. I also love the imagery —poetic *ang dating.*"

–Imelda Guevarra, 32, Rizal

Outstanding celebrities...

From page G1

race, dog-eat-dog and "Mirror, mirror on the wall" world of show business.

In fact, a talent manager declares without fear of contradiction, "Boots Anson-Roa is the *only* star who hasn't allowed her success to go to her head!" Well, we wouldn't go *that* far, but you get the picture!

Worthy causes

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Aga Muhlach, who uses his considerable celebrity, not just to boost himself, but also to generate interest in—and support for—a number of worthy causes. We would be even more grateful if Aga gifts us with a *great* film performance next year, on the level of "Miguelito," "Bagets," and his past thespic triumphs.

Popularity is great and essential to continuing stardom, but Aga is also a fine actor, so he should stretch his thespic limits once every two years or so, for his and his loyal followers' benefit—and pleasure.

Shiok! II
singapore

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Our Events Calendar

December

1 - 31	Christmas in the Tropics
1 - 31	Cultures of Creativity The Centennial Exhibition of the Nobel Prize
1 - 31	Fabric of the Nation Exhibition
7 - 10	6th International Guitar Festival & 2nd International Guitar Competition
15 - 17	Lexus Cup 2006
16 - 25	Singapore Garden Festival
31	Marina Bay Countdown 06/07 Make a Wish
31	Siloso Beach Party Asia's Grooviest

January

1	Siloso Beach Party Asia's Grooviest
1 - 2	Christmas in the Tropics
1 - 24	Cultures of Creativity The Centennial Exhibition of the Nobel Prize
13	Eric Clapton Live in Singapore
27 - 31	Chinatown Chinese New Year Light-Up
28	HOOBASTANK LIVE in Singapore

February

[illegible]	Chinatown Chinese New Year Light-Up
[illegible]	DIARIES, MY LANDSCAPES
[illegible]	Mystery Men: Finds from China's Lost Age
	[illegible] of Fun
[illegible]	Selections of Wu Guanzhong's Paintings in Oil and Ink
[illegible]	[illegible] Singapore Fringe Festival 2007
[illegible] 16	The Pickle King
[illegible]	Stuttgart Ballet – Romeo and Juliet
[illegible]	I Think [illegible]
[illegible]	Madras Mail
[illegible] - 25	Singapore River Hongbao 2007
[illegible] - 24	Chingay 2007

Singapore TOURISM BOARD

So visit your favorite travel agent and book your trip to Singapore NOW! For details, see flyers or call Singapore Tourism Board Philippines in Manila at (632) 8130946, SilkAir Royal Winds in Cebu at (032) 2326211 loc 208 or SilkAir in Davao at (082) 2211039 or (082) 2245608.

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SM Mall of Asia Operating Hours for the holiday season

December 1-21	10:00AM	11:00PM
December 22-23	10:00AM	12:00MN
December 24	9:00AM	7:00PM
December 25-30	10:00AM	11:00PM
December 31	9:00AM	7:00PM
January 1	12:00NN	10:00PM

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See posters for details.

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 4464 Series of 2006.

SPORTS Central

Get a free Men's Health Magazine (August 2006 edition) for a minimum of P1,000 single purchase.

CHRISTMAS at SM MALL OF ASIA

December 8-12, Fri-Wed
Music Hall, 10AM onwards

POOH & FRIENDS AT THE HUNDRED ACRE WOOD

In celebration of Pooh's 80th year, SM Supermalls & Toy Kingdom are flying in the most beloved characters of The Hundred Acre Wood. Get a chance to meet and greet Winnie & friends at the SM Mall of Asia.

JOSE MARI CHAN

December 9, Main Mall, 4PM

Listen and be captivated as Jose Mari Chan serenades SM MOA with his latest Ultimate Platinum Collection.

Olé
Spanish Christmas Festival and Bazaar

OLE!
A Spanish Christmas Fair

December 15-17
Music Hall, 10AM onwards

The Embassy of Spain brings a taste of Spanish holidays with festive entertainment & Spanish goodies – perfect for Christmas presents.

Photograph by: Pat Dy

SAN MIGUEL SAN MIGUEL SAN MIGUEL

SM MALL OF ASIA PRESENTS: THE SAN MIGUEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

December 15-17, Main Mall, 6PM

December 28-30, 2006 & January 5-6, 2007
Esplanade, 7PM

WORLD PYRO OLYMPICS

Witness 9 countries battle in the most explosive event this year: the World Pyro Olympics.

SATURDAY Special

NOW SHOWING

Birth and renewal

ISAAC AND HUGHES. Illuminating performances that break stereotypes.

By Rito P. Asilo

"The Nativity Story"

D: Catherine Hardwicke

S: Keshia Castle-Hughes, Oscar Isaac, Shohreh Aghdashloo

WATCHING CATHERINE HARDwicke's faithful cinematic rendering of the events leading to the birth of Jesus Christ can be an emotional experience—even among the spiritually-challenged.

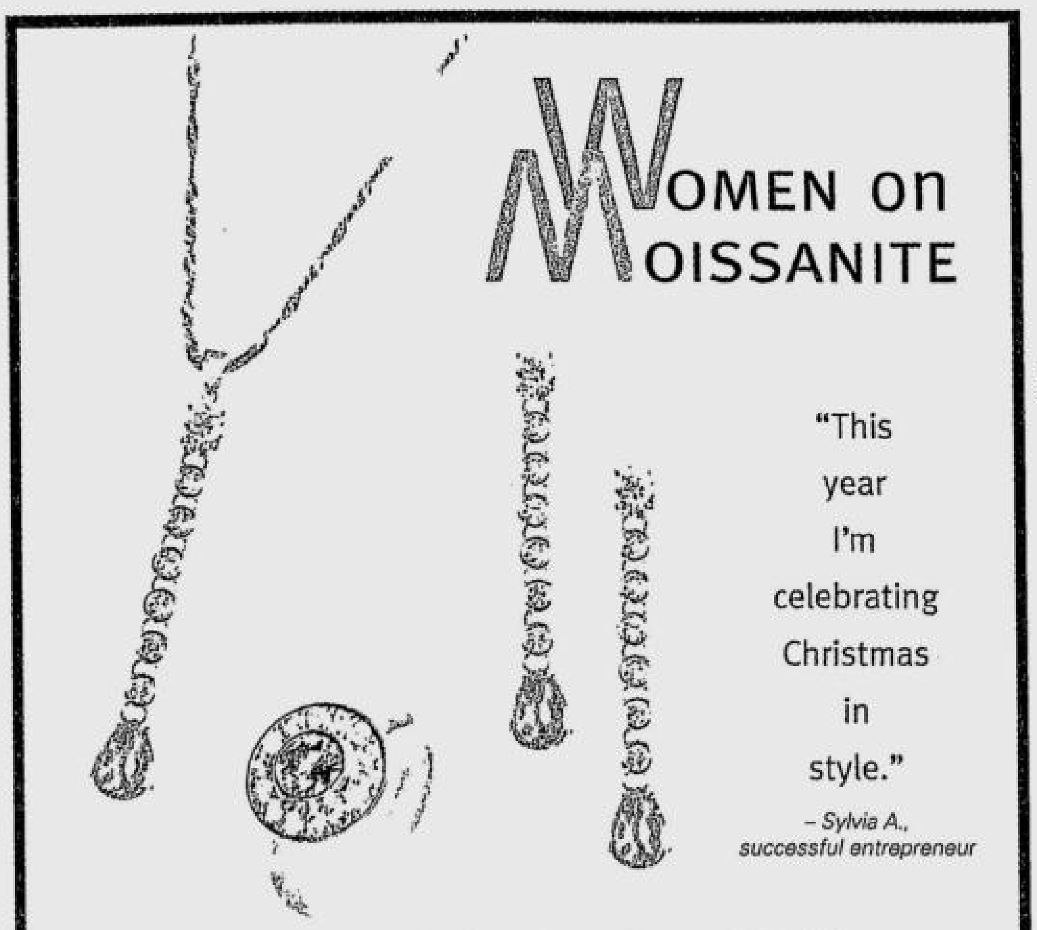
In staunchly unswerving detail, the movie details the intimate story of a teenage Mary (Keshia Castle-Hughes), who is betrothed to kind carpenter, Joseph (Oscar Isaac), a man she doesn't love. Joseph and Mary soon find themselves in the maelstrom of scandal and intrigue when the latter becomes pregnant—an "immaculate conception" explained to them by the angel, Gabriel (Alexander Siddig).

The couple then flees from Nazareth to Bethlehem to evade the wrath of jealous King Herod (Ciaran Hinds), who has ordered the massacre of all babies aged two years and below to prevent the coming of the "child for the lowest of men and the highest of kings." In the process, they confront the inner turmoil that threatens their faith to God and devotion for each other.

We have spent more than half of our theater career performing Ryan Cayabyab and Nestor Torre's long-running stage musical, "Magnificat," about the life of Christ as seen through the eyes of His mother. So, watching the movie—and the prophecy—brought to throbbing cinematic life is a searing and soul-stirring experience.

You wonder, though, what took Hollywood this long to tell Joseph, Mary and Jesus' tale of faith and the ultimate sacrifice. But then again, the

BIRTH/ H2



WOMEN on MOISSANITE

"This year I'm celebrating Christmas in style."
– Sylvia A., successful entrepreneur

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Healthy Options gifts selections combine originality, art, value and most of all, premium-quality natural products.

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- SM City North EDSA
- Rustan's Supermarket, Makati
- SM City Pampanga
- Greenbelt 1 Makati
- SM City Manila
- Festival Supermall, Alabang
- SM Mall of Asia
- Ayala Center, Cebu
- SM City Sta. Rosa
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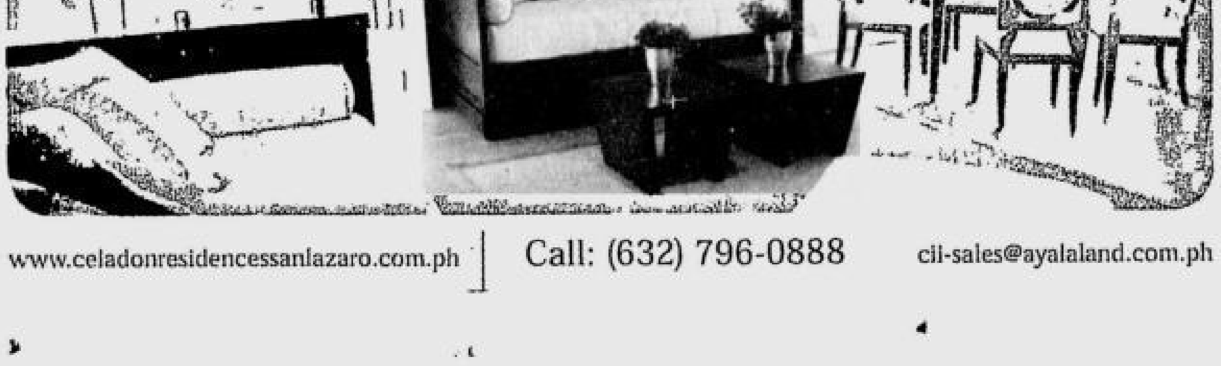

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Birth and renewal

From page H1

coming of the Savior was a prophecy that took 3,000 years to fulfill!

Interestingly, the film breaks stereotypes: Mary is depicted, not as a subservient daughter, but as a headstrong, young bride who questions her forced marriage to Joseph.

Joseph, on the other hand, may be a pious man, but has a healthy sense of humor—a virtue that sees the couple through the scandal about Mary's unexpected pregnancy, even as "friends" begin to avoid them. As they prepare to leave Nazareth, he quips nonchalantly: "They will surely miss us!"

Hardwicke's film also tackles the couple's blossoming romance as they endure heat and hunger—an arduous journey masterfully enhanced by Elliot Davis' photography, Stephan Ortoloni's production design, and illuminating performances from the luminous Castle-Hughes, Isaac, Shohreh Aghdashloo (as Mary's cousin, Elizabeth), and the three Magi, Melchior (Nadim Sawalha), Balthasar (Eriq Ebouaney) and Gaspar (Stefan Kalipha).

Devoid of gore, spectacle and acting histrionics, the movie will touch you with its earnest, straightforward storytelling, and its strong message of hope and renewal.

The moving scene in the manger is particularly breathtaking: It stands as a reminder that the sacrifices on Christmas day 2,006 years ago and, more than 30 years thereafter, on Black Friday, were made to bring us back to our loving Father's embrace.

COTILLARD AND CROWE. Feel-good romantic vibe.

"A Good Year"

D: Ridley Scott
S: Russell Crowe, Albert Finney

Ridley Scott's latest film is also about renewal: Based on Peter Mayle's bestselling novel, it tells the story of Max (Russell Crowe), an aggressive stocks-and-bonds British trader, who inherits a French vineyard from Henry (Albert Finney), an uncle he hasn't spoken to in 10 years.

Max is a man who's "so intent about his future that he loses grip of his past," and one who's unable to appreciate life's simple pleasures.

When he visits the French countryside (to sell—and earn from—the property), however, he realizes what he's been missing all his successful but emotionally vacuous adult life. And, with fresh air and beautiful vistas around him, can romance be far behind?

To be fair, Crowe doesn't do badly. However, he oozes too much intensity even when he's dabbling with light romance. It's nice to see the actor do something that doesn't require him to pulverize someone onscreen, however.

But, spreading feel-good romantic vibe just isn't Crowe's cup of tea. When his beautiful love interest (Marion Cotillard) gets as feisty and as angsty as he is in their scenes together, you half expect the brilliant but temperamental actor to punch the living daylights out of her.

That's *not* something you'd like to see in a romantic comedy, is it?

Basil Valdez revives Filipino classics

By Remy M. Umerez

RYAN CAYABYAB REFERS TO BASIL VALDEZ as the country's original Philippine Idol. After a long wait, Basil returns with some of the counrty's oldest and most well-loved tunes in the album, "Filipino Classics."

The ambitious project, which took two years to complete, marks the singer's reteaming with Ryan. The two musical icons first worked together more than 25 years ago.

Album

With accompaniment by the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra, the album includes "Diyos Lamang ang Nakaalam" by Leopoldo Silos and Manuel Villar, who is considered the father of the Philippine recording industry.

"Babalik Ka Rin" is a 1930 song written by Constancio de Guzman to immortalize Gen. Douglas McArthur's promise ("I Shall Return") to the Filipino people.

"Dahil sa Isang Bulaklak" (1966) was the title of the popular movie produced by Nepomuceno Productions starring Charito Solis and introducing Liza Lorena.

The *kundiman*, "Bituing Marikit," one of the oldest songs in the lineup, was popularized by Atang dela Rama. Composed by Nicanor Abelardo, the tune is thought to have been written as a prayer. In 1937, it was used as the theme song for the movie that starred Rogelio dela Rosa and Elsa Oria.

"Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" was written by National Artists, Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio, when they met onboard a ship bound for the Philippines from the US.

Love triangles

Three other Celerio compositions are included in the selection: "Sapagka't Kami'y Tao Lamang," "Kung Nagsasayaw" and "Lagi Kitang Naaalala." "Sapagka't" (1963) is one of the most popular movie theme songs ever composed. It was used in the film that starred Eddie Rodriguez, Marlene Daudem and Lolita Rodriguez, and consequently helped set the trend for cinematic love triangles.

It is said that "Bayan Ko" was originally performed by *zarzuela* queen, Atang dela Rama, at a workers' rally in 1924. The song is closely associated with the *Pinoy's* struggle against oppression, especially at the height of the 1986 Edsa uprising.

VALDEZ. His illustrious career has spanned three decades.

"Mahiwaga" is a simple but moving prayer, first recorded by Ric Manrique Jr. and penned by Dominador Torres and Manuel Villar.

Basil's musical career has spanned three decades. The release of "Filipino Classics" is one of the highlights of Viva's 25th anniversary.

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~His Eminence Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican Secretary of State

"This is our answer to the BLASPHEMY [*The Da Vinci Code*] thrown at our faith..."
~His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales

"Hooray for Holy-wood...the must-see movie this holiday season. And the unprecedented well-received Vatican premiere is the papal equivalent of TWO THUMBS UP."
Rebecca Winters Keegan
~TIME Magazine

"I'm not an emotional person, but when I finished watching it ... THE TEARS CAME DOWN MY CHEEK. I COULDN'T SPEAK."
Anne Graham Lotz
~NEWSWEEK Magazine

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Nancy Rose
~VANITY FAIR Magazine

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'Inang Yaya' director shifts from painting to film

By Rica Arevalo

DIRECTOR PABLO Biglang-Awa Jr. is a new name in the local film community, but he is well-respected in art circles: He won the grand prize at the 36th Art Association of the Philippines' competition for "Liwasang's Psychedelic Aura."

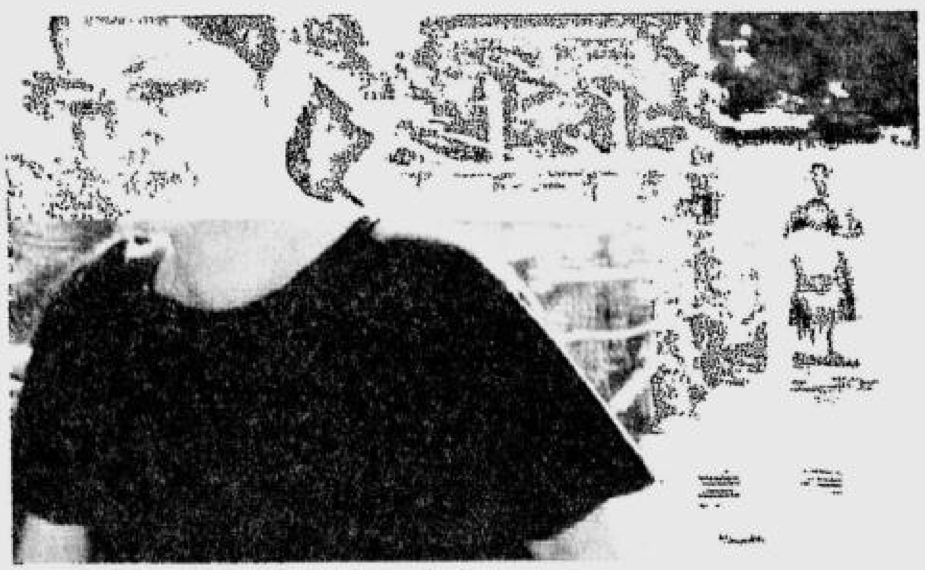
The guy who was quoted in a 1981 Metro magazine interview saying, "I will always be a painter until the day I die," is now taking back that declaration. Times do change—and so do convictions!

Fourth solo exhibit

"'Inang Yaya,' with Maricel Soriano playing the title role, just fell into my lap," relates this Philippine High School for the Arts graduate. "When Veronica 'Ronnie' Velasco was writing the screenplay, I was getting ready for my fourth solo exhibit. She convinced me to direct it since, having directed TV commercials, I was familiar with child talents. With my experience, she thought it would be easy to handle Tala Santos and Erika Oreta (the movie's leading child performers)"

His first taste of moviemaking came when he made an experimental 8mm short film, "Diptik," about sexual awakening, starring Jon Red.

"I was so overwhelmed by the experience that I decided to take part in a full-length production. I was a props man in Tikoy Aguiluz's 'Boatman.' But after that, pride and self-pity took over, so I decided to quit in the middle of production. Nevertheless, it was satisfying to see my name in the movie credits!"


SORIANO. Topbills acclaimed domestic drama.

He then became part of Mike de Leon's Cinema Artists' Electronic Studio, where he worked on 2D digital paint and 3D animation.

He recalls, "Mike was never a demanding boss. He would drop by the office to check on what we were doing on our computers. He would sometimes initiate conversations about new technology, or recommend a movie he saw on laser disc. Otherwise, I would see him in silence—always in deep thought."

He also has high regard for Unitel's big boss, Tony Gloria: "He knows how to find the right people. He has the exceptional capacity to harness necessary resources to realize his ideas. His decision to hire me as director of 'Inang Yaya' is a celebration of 16 years of collaboration with him—a dream come true which I'll never forget."

Huge responsibility

On his feature-film debut, he says: "It took me a while to condition myself to fully accept the huge responsibility, but I had so much belief in Ronnie's story that I knew it would have been crazy to pass up a once-in-a-lifetime chance like this."

"Inang Yaya" was graded A by the Cinema Evaluation Board. Visit www.inangyaya.blogspot.com

Wowowee
POP VIEWERS CHOICE 2006
MUST-SEE AWARDS SHOW!
Ang heartbeat romance nina Stic (VICTOR BASA) at Brenda (CARLA HUMPHRIES)
STAR Magic PRESENTS
Love Spell
Komiks Pedro Penduko
Pedro vs. Santelmo!
10 pinakamatunding tanong sa showbiz masasagot na!
The Buzz
John En Shirley
Pinoy Dream Academy
Sino sa mga natitirang 6 scholars ang makakapasok sa Honor List of 6?
MAGING SINO KA MAN
JOHN LLOYD CRUZ BEA ALONZO
MMK Maalaala Mo Kaya
Ang Ligaya ng Pasko

THE WEEK NEVER ENDS SA ABS-CBN

16 days to go, Christmas na.
Kaya mga naggagandahang palabas ang hatid namin sa inyo
mula Lunes hanggang Linggo!

SABADO

Wowowee 12:30nn
Si WOWOWILLIE, bibisitahin ng mga reyna!
Guest Stars: POPS FERNANDEZ at KEANNA REEVES

Nagmamahal Kapamilya 3pm
Ang kwento ng mga Pilipinong nasa *Hawaii*!
Maki-aloha kina American Idol JASMINE TRIAS
at Ms. Hawaii 2006 JOAN CARO!

Let's Go! 4pm
Ang GO KADA, magiging mga fashionista!
Tara lets sa fashion show nila.

Star Magic Presents Abt Ur Luv 5pm

TV PATROL SABADO
Maraming balita ang dito mo lang mababalitaan!

Komiks Presents Da Adventures of Pedro Penduko 6:30pm
Ang Santelmo ay isang apoy na may dalang panganib.
Ito ang kailangang harapin ng Pinoy adventurer.

John En Shirley

XXX Exklusibong Explosibong Exposé 8:30pm
Anak na binugbog ang ina dahil sa hidwaan sa lupa, aaksyunan!

Pinoy Dream Academy 9:30pm

Aalog-Alog
Bakit ang Barangay Taniman,
tatawagin nang Barangay Tawanan?

Sports Unlimited
Hang loose 'coz the surf is up
in Siargao and Camarines Sur.

WEEKDAY HIGHLIGHTS
Ang ka-kasiyahan ng mas maraming Pilipino.

Homeboy 10:40 am
Pilipinas, Game K N B?
Wowowee
Kapamilya Cinema

[illegible]	Bilang Na Ang Araw Mo
[illegible]	Manong Gang
[illegible]	Basta't Ikaw, Nanginginig Pa!
[illegible]	Manchichimochi, Aanga-Anga Sa Maynila
Friday	Bahay Ni Lola

Inocenti De Ti
Si Floracita, mayaman na!
Pero bakit patuloy siyang nagdurusa?

Noypi, Ikaw Ba 'To? *Tuwing Lunes*
Malapit na ang Pasko, pagmamahal mo ba'y todo?
Hosted by: GABE MERCADO

LINGGO

ASAP '06 11:45am
Is your favorite celebrity in this year's most popular list?
Find out in the **1st ASAP POP Viewers Choice Awards.**

Your Song: Ang Soundtrack Ng Love Life Mo
Presents My Grown-Up Christmas List
Starring: John Prats and Maja Salvador

Love Spell Presents Pasko na, Santa Ko
Gagantihan nina *Ryan* (GERALD ANDERSON)
at *Paulo* (MATT EVANS) si *Crisanta* (AIAI DELAS ALAS).
Ngunit paano kung ma-in love ang mga boys kina *Abby* (KIM CHIU)
at *Maria* (OLYN MEIMBAN), ang mga anak ng evil bida?

THE BUZZ 4pm

TV PATROL LINGGO 6pm

GOIN' BULILIT
Walang katumbas ang tawanan
ng mga bulilit sa bilyaran.

RATED K: HANDA KA NA BA?
Mga kwentong kakaiba ang hatid sa inyo ni **KORINA.**

SHARON
Caroling at kwentuhan with **Mega** and friends
Guest Starring: JED MADELA, ORANGE & LEMONS,
THE COMPANY, MASCULADOS

FINAL WEEK!
Pinoy Dream Academy
One week to go bago mag-finals!
Kaya itotodo na ng **Honor List of 6** ang laban.

Sunday's Best Presents: Chicken Run 10:30pm
Samahan tumakas ang mga manok
na ayaw maging fried chicken!

PRIMETIME BIDA

Pangako Sa 'Yo 6pm
May maitim na balak si *Amor* laban sa mga *Buenavista*.
Magtagumpay kaya siya?

TV Patrol World
Ang kabalitaan ng mas maraming Pilipino
saan man sa mundo!

Kapamilya, Deal or No Deal
2 million pesos na hindi makamtan,
ngayon kaya matsambahan?

Super Inggo
Hanggang kailan mangingibabaw ang kasamaan
sa puso ni *Machete* (DEREK RAMSEY)?

Maging Sino Ka Man

Pinoy Dream Academy
Ilang tulog na lang **Grand Dream Night** na!
Sino ang hihiranging **Grand Star Dreamer?**

Maalaala Mo Kaya? *Tuwing Biyernes*
Age doesn't matter pagdating sa love.
Starring: **PIOLO PASCUAL** and **ANGELLIE** of *Little Big Star Season 2*

The Correspondents *Tuwing Martes*
May koneksyon ba ang *Subic Rape Case*
sa *Visiting Forces Agreement?*

Young comers topbill key productions

By Nestor U. Torre

THIS IS A GOOD YEAR FOR NEW TALENTS. Our latest batch of comers and star wannabes is topped by Abigail Breslin, the new child star who plays the title role in the sleeper hit, "Little Miss Sunshine."

The film tells the tragi-comic story of a dysfunctional family on its way to a beauty pageant for little girls. Brazenly satirical and yet deeply human, the film, which opens its run at SM cinemas on Dec. 13, was a smash hit at the Sundance Film Festival.

Contender

Breslin's character, Olive, starts out as a bespectacled, plump seven-year-old who wills herself into contender form because winning means so much to her troubled family.

"Little Miss Sunshine" also stars Greg Kinnear, Steve Carell, Tony Collette and Alan Arkin. It's a testament to newcomer Breslin's talent and grit that she's able to hold her own in the company of such outstanding and vastly more experienced performers.

On the local film scene, "Inang Yaya" has discovered two similarly exceptional child talents in Erika Oreta and Tala Santos. The two young actresses play the real and surrogate daughters of *yaya* Maricel Soriano. The two girls come off so well because they're exactly right for their widely divergent roles. We believe that they should jointly win "best child actor" awards in film competitions for 2006.

In the recording field, young Katelyn Tarver is establishing herself as the latest teen pop sensation. Her first single, "Wonderful Crazy," is fast climbing up the music charts.

The carrier single is from Katelyn's debut album, which also includes cuts like "Undesirable," "Something in Me" and "Careless Whisper."

In the current film, "A Good Year," Australian actress Abbie Cornish gets to act opposite *the* Russell Crowe. She plays a young woman who claims she's the illegitimate daughter of Crowe's deceased uncle.

Cornish may be young, but she's already well-known in Australian productions. Among other achievements, she won thé Australian Film Institute Award as best actress for her star turn as a sexually-charged teenager in the 2004 coming-of-age drama, "Somersault."

Simplicity and depth

In "The Nativity," the plum role of the Blessed Virgin Mary has gone to Keisha Castle-Hughes, who as a child actress garnered acclaim in the film, "Whale Rider." Now 16 years old, she plays the 13-year-old Mary with simplicity and depth.

And, in "Eragon," the young hero is played by newcomer Ed Speelers, who won the plum role after an extensive worldwide search which rivaled the hunt for the young leads in the "Harry Potter" film franchise.

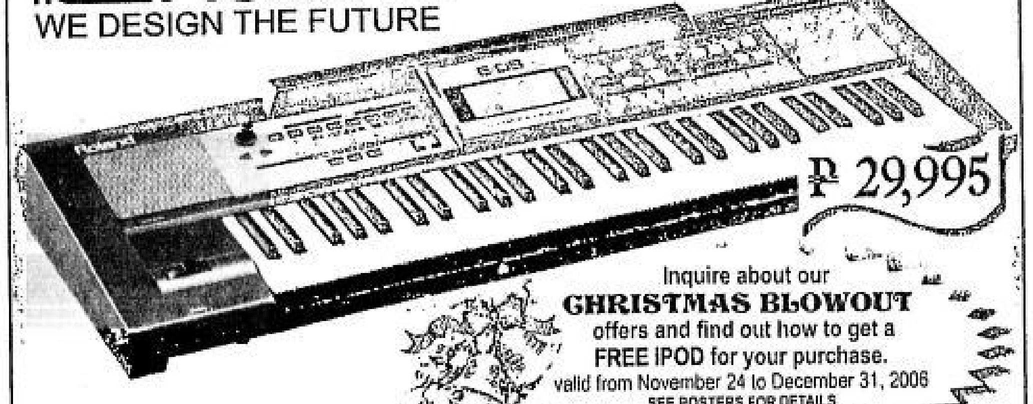
Another male newcomer, Jake Cherry, stars as Ben Stiller's son in the "after-dark" comedy, "A Night at the Museum." Cherry made his feature-film debut in "Friends with Money," starring Jennifer Aniston and Frances McDormand.

—Which of these show biz comers is in the biz to stay? That's for the audience to decide, and thus far the good box-office showing abroad of "Little Miss Sunshine" and "The Nativity" indicated that Breslin and Castle-Hughes have an advantage over their similarly youthful rivals, some of whose starrers have yet to be tested in the box-office's all-important crucible.

SPEELERS. Plays the plum role of the young hero in "Eragon."

BRESLIN. Dazzles critics and moviegoers in "Little Miss Sunshine."

CHERRY (left) with Ben Stiller in "A Night at the Museum."



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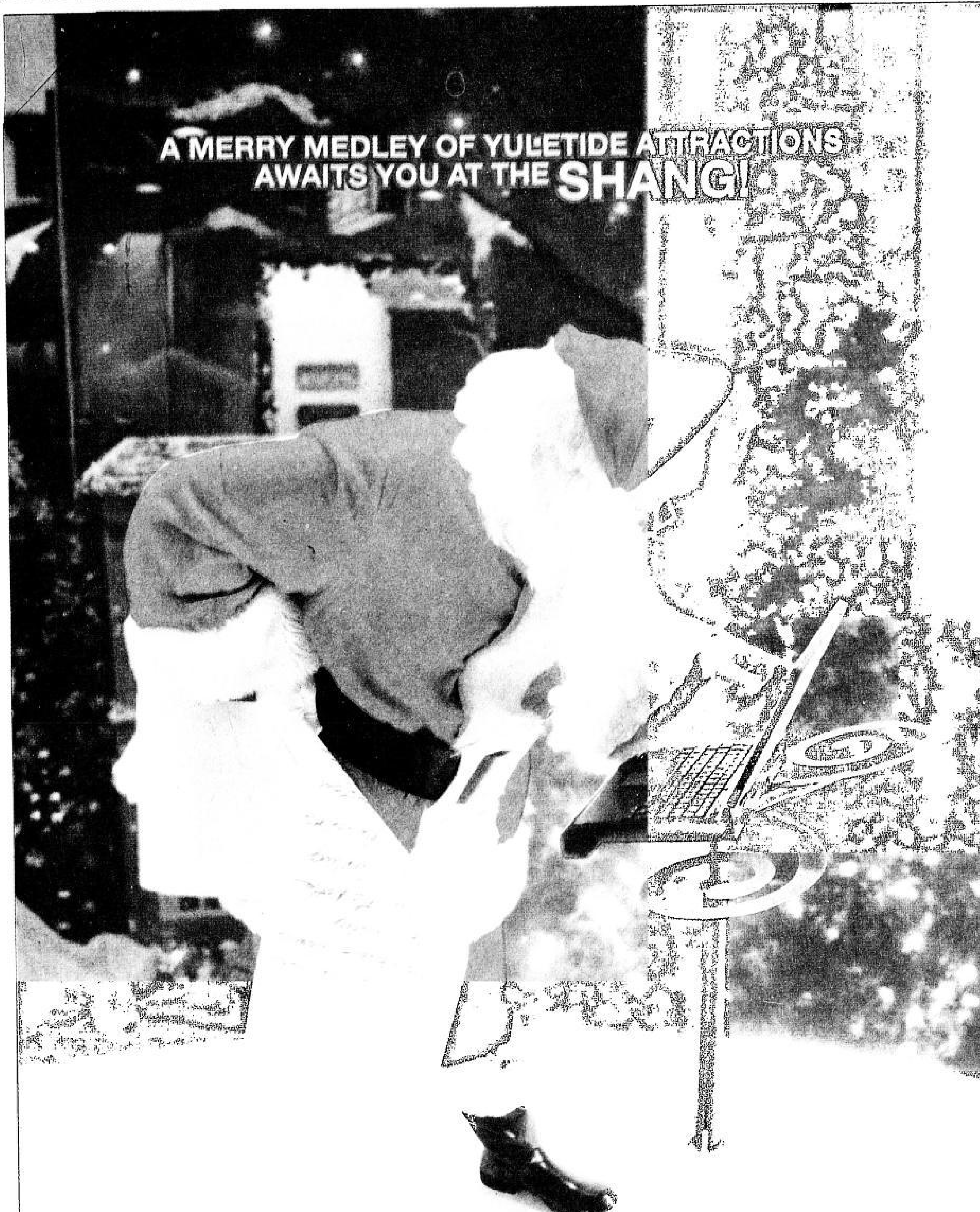
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Philippine Opera Company
Grand Atrium, 7:00 pm

Liquefied Orange, Streetscape, 10:00 pm

DECEMBER 2 (SATURDAY)
Songs of the Season
UP Singing Ambassadors
Grand Atrium, 6:00 pm

Piano Christmas Melodies
Indulgences, Level 3, 2:30 - 6:30 pm

Classified, Streetscape, 10:00 pm

DECEMBER 3 (SUNDAY)
Christmas Prelude
Banda Morriz of Morong Rizal
Grand Atrium, 5:00 pm

Piano Christmas Melodies
Indulgences, Level 3, 2:30 - 6:30 pm

The Traditional Carols of Christmas
Las Piñas Boys Choir
Caroling around the mall,
4:00 - 5:00 pm

DECEMBER 8 (FRIDAY)
My Favorite Things
Philippine Opera Company
Grand Atrium, 7:00 pm

Perfect Jazz Rhythms
Jazz A Little Different
The Ledge, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

New Level, Streetscape, 10:00 pm

DECEMBER 9 (SATURDAY)
A Celebration of Trumpets for the Holidays
A Marks & Spencer Presentation
Grand Atrium, 5:00 pm

Piano Christmas Melodies
Indulgences, Level 3, 2:30 - 6:30 pm

Holly Ho!
Philippine Opera Company
Caroling around the mall,
4:00 - 5:00 pm

Limited Edition, Streetscape,
10:00 pm

DECEMBER 10 (SUNDAY)
A Suzuki Christmas Carol
Suzuki Music Kids
Grand Atrium, 5:00 pm

Piano Christmas Melodies
Indulgences, Level 3, 2:30 - 6:30 pm

DECEMBER 15 (FRIDAY)
Child Emmanuel, A Christmas Concert
Jesuit Communications Foundation, Inc.
Grand Atrium, 7:00 pm

Perfect Jazz Rhythms
H3O
The Ledge, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Acoustic Jive, Streetscape, 10:00 pm

DECEMBER 16 (SATURDAY)
Christmas with a Tenor
Jonathan Badon and the Philippine Opera Company
Grand Atrium, 7:00 pm

Piano Christmas Melodies
Indulgences, Level 3, 2:30 - 6:30 pm

Amadeus, Streetscape, 10:00 pm

DECEMBER 17 (SUNDAY)
Ballet Favorites
Effie Nañas Dancentre
Grand Atrium, 5:30 pm

Piano Christmas Melodies
Indulgences, Level 3, 2:30 - 6:30 pm

Holly Ho!
Philippine Opera Company
Caroling around the mall, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

DECEMBER 18 (MONDAY)
The Magic of Christmas
Mandaluyong Children's Choir
Grand Atrium, 7:00 pm

DECEMBER 19 (TUESDAY)
Yuletide Harmonies
UP Madrigal Singers
Grand Atrium, 7:00 pm

DECEMBER 20 (WEDNESDAY)
Little Carolers
Las Piñas Boy's Choir
Grand Atrium, 7:00 pm

DECEMBER 21 (THURSDAY)
Christmas with a Jazz Great
Mon David
Grand Atrium, 7:00 pm

DECEMBER 22 (FRIDAY)
A Christmas Celebration
Philippine Opera Company
Grand Atrium, 7:00 pm

Perfect Jazz Rhythms
Jazz Momentum
The Ledge, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Silk, Streetscape, 10:00 pm

DECEMBER 23 (SATURDAY)
The San Miguel Christmas Music Festival
San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and San Miguel Master Chorale
Grand Atrium, 6:00 pm

Piano Christmas Melodies
Indulgences, Level 3, 2:30 - 6:30pm

Flintstones, Streetscape, 10:00 pm

DECEMBER 24 (SUNDAY)
It's Christmas Tonight
Instrumental Trio
Grand Atrium, 5:00 pm

Piano Christmas Melodies
Indulgences, Level 3, 2:30 - 6:30 pm

DECEMBER 29 (FRIDAY)
Yuletide Minstrels
Instrumental Duo
Grand Atrium, 7:00 pm

Perfect Jazz Rhythms
HQ Jazz Trio
The Ledge, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Toy Symphony, Streetscape,
10:00 pm

DECEMBER 30 (SATURDAY)
GAGE, a Christmas Story
Bart Guingona and the Philippine Opera Company
Grand Atrium, 7:00 pm

Piano Christmas Melodies
Indulgences, Level 3, 2:30 - 6:30pm

Passage, Streetscape, 10:00 pm

DECEMBER 31 (SUNDAY)
Auld Lang Syne
HQ Jazz Quartet
Grand Atrium, 5:00 pm

Piano Christmas Melodies
Indulgences, Level 3, 2:30 - 6:30 pm

JANUARY 6, 2007 (SATURDAY)
Cheers for the New Year!
Chamber Ensemble
Grand Atrium, 7:00 pm

Piano Christmas Melodies
Indulgences, Level 3, 2:30 - 6:30 pm

JANUARY 7, 2007 (SUNDAY)
A Night of Brass Music
UST Brass Quintet
Grand Atrium, 7:00 pm

Piano Christmas Melodies
Indulgences, Level 3, 2:30 - 6:30 pm

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SATURDAY *Special*

'Dreamgirls' promises big-screen magic

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME YEARS AGO, TWO "near-extinct" film types enjoyed a welcome resurgence. After decades of relative inactivity, animated features and musical movies were produced again, starting with such early birds as "Toy Story" and "Moulin Rouge," respectively.

Later, however, animated features became more popular than musicals, which were produced only occasionally—unlike their halcyon days in the '40s and '50s, when many of them were filmed and reigned triumphant on the big screen.

Noteworthy format

Despite successes like "Chicago," musical movies have continued to languish—a state of affairs that depresses fans of the genre, who believe that it is one of the film world's most noteworthy formats.

Well, things could be taking a turn for the better before the year ends, with the imminent release of the film version of the hit '60s musical, "Dreamgirls."

With big names like Beyonce Knowles and Eddie Murphy top-billing, "Dreamgirls" bids fair to end up as one of the film year's biggest hits.

Even better, preview audiences have been raving about the new movie, and reviewers have given it some truly glowing notices.

If "Dreamgirls" lives up to its advance raves and hit potential, it could further energize the film musical genre, and motivate producers to bankroll more all-singing and all-dancing projects next year.

Difficult

Musicals are particularly difficult to film because they combine so many different show biz disciplines, and they require so much from their performers, who are expected to act, dance and sing with equal verve.

"Dreamgirls" has been received so well in preview screenings that it's being cited as a shoo-in for Oscar awards nominations next year. Knowles and Murphy could be its two main beneficiaries in this regard, so excitement is high.

Personally, we're looking forward to watching the "Dreamgirls" film because we caught the stage original when it became a hit on Broadway decades ago. We were taking our masteral studies in the States and got an invitation to catch the show during its triumphant run on the Great White Way.

We can still remember the black musical's powerful impact on its audience. The singers all had spectacular voices, and took the show to incredible musical heights.

The singing stars performed so spectacularly that they sounded like their singing voices emanated, not from their diaphragms, but from their knees and heels!

Memorable aspect

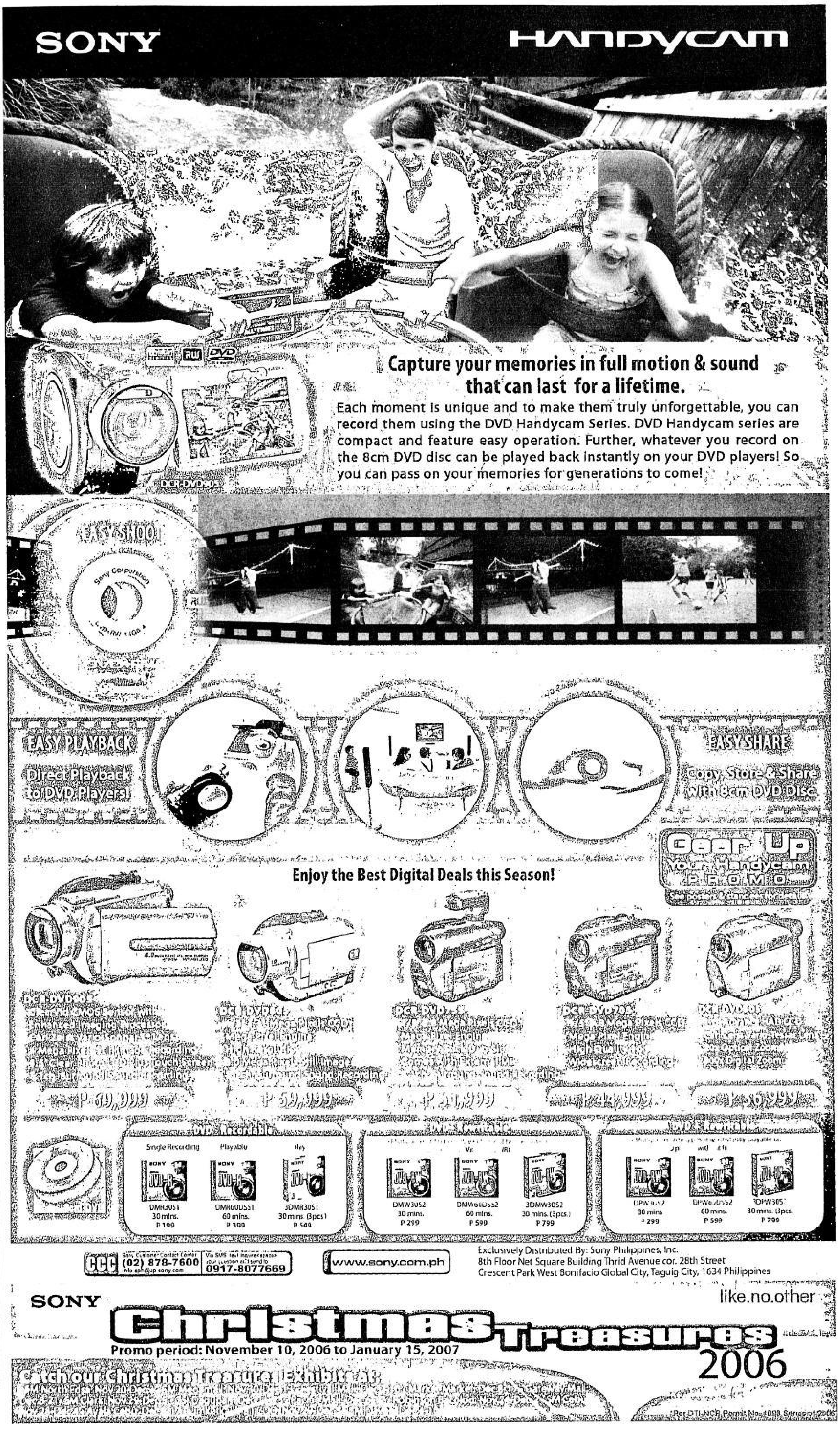
Another memorable aspect of the production was its set design and execution. The sets were mostly girders that were put together in different configurations, depending on the location of each scene.

Even more amazingly, everything was computerized, and the set changes were executed electronically—and exactly on cue.

The show was such a huge hit that we wondered why it took decades to finally bring it to the big screen. Well, that question is now moot and academic, and all that's left for us to do is to savor "Dreamgirls," the film musical, when it hits our big screens—hopefully, before the year ends!

MURPHY. Plays singing-and-dancing star who gives the film's female trio a break in the biz.

KNOWLES. Predicted to get an Oscar nomination, at the very least.



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2 HAPPY FEET
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 KAMA SUTRA 3
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
4 THE NATIVITY STORY
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 A GOOD YEAR
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
6 REYNA
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
7 DECK THE HALLS
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50
8 BORAT
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50
9 FRAGILE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
10 THE RETURN
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

ERMITA 36-7809 to 78

1 HAPPY FEET
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
2 KAMA SUTRA 3
12:10 2:10 4:10 6:10 8:10 10:00
3 THE NATIVITY STORY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 CASINO ROYALE
11:00 1:40 4:20 7:00 9:50
5 THE RETURN
12:35 2.50 5:05 7:25 9:50
6 REYNA
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
7 A GOOD YEAR
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193; 682-8199

1 THE RETURN
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
2 HAPPY FEET
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
3 A GOOD YEAR
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05
4 THE NATIVITY STORY
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10
5 FRAGILE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
6 KAMA SUTRA 3
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
7 CASINO ROYALE
12:00 3:00 6:00 9.00
8 REYNA
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

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GORE. Campaigns to educate people on the dangers of global warming.

Docu is an urgent plea to save the planet

By Noelani Torre

THE SCARIEST movie you will see this year doesn't have ghosts, psycho killers, or blood and gore in it. It has charts, graphs, glaciers—and Al Gore.

In Davis Guggenheim's documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," the ex-politician who, in his own words, "used to be the next president of the United States of America," gives a clear, concise, and ultimately frightening picture of how our planet is doing now—and how it will be in the very near future if we don't do anything!

Climate

Based largely on the slide-show presentation that Gore has been presenting to audiences all around the world, the movie details the effects that global warming has on the climate and, of course, on our lives.

Interspersed with the lecture are scenes from Gore's life—his loss to Bush in the 2000 presidential elections, the near-death of his son, the death of his sister due to lung cancer, and his years-long campaign to educate people on the dangers of global warming.

Some will no doubt consider these biopic scenes as Gore's ploy to revamp his image as a preparation for future re-entry into politics.

Yes, sometimes Guggenheim does put the former Vice President on a too-high-to-be-credible pedestal, but by and large, these views into Gore's life and motivations work positively by giving the lecturer a more personal link to his subject matter.

Politics

In any case, whether or not you like Gore, and whether or not you agree with his politics, what you should be looking at here are the *facts:* Global warming is real—it is not, as a lot of people in the US still seem to believe, a theory.

Gore throws a lot of numbers at us, but what is most interesting is a survey conducted of 10 percent of peer-reviewed articles on global warming published in respected scientific journals.

Much has been mentioned in the popular press of the "debate" in the scientific community regarding the veracity of global warming, but when that survey was done, it was found out that not a single one of these studies challenged it.

Contrast

In contrast, 53 percent of the articles regarding global warming in the mainstream media have described it as a theory. "No wonder people are confused," Gore tells an audience laughing out of sheer disbelief.

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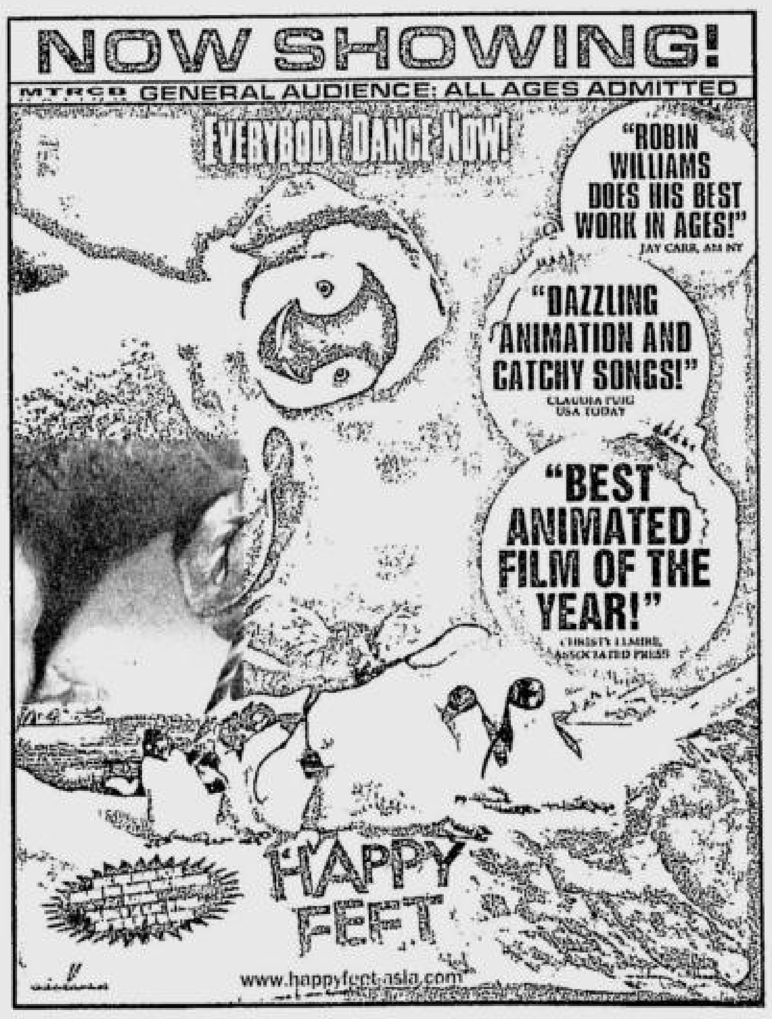
HAPPY FEET
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
G

CASINO ROYAL
1:10, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40
PG-13

THE NATIVITY
1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00
G



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Ito na kaya ang hinahanap niya?

MAU MARCELO
The Soul Idol.
Laging pinipintasan ang kanyang itsura.
Mapatunayan na kaya niya ang tunay
niyang ganda?

GIAN MAGDANGAL
The Livewire Idol.
Nawala na ang lahat sa kanya.
Mabawi kaya niya ang lahat
ng isinakripisyo niya?

MAMAYANG 9PM NA!
IKAW ANG PIPILI NG IDOL NG BAYAN!

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2-DAY FINALE! SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, 9PM

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Kapartner sa paghahanap ng 1st Philippine Idol

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Suportahan ang IDOL MO!
WEAR: YELLOW FOR MAU
ORANGE FOR GIAN
BLUE FOR JAN

Self-realization and transcendence

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

LAST WEEK, we told King Yayati's story. Here are his thoughts about lust:

King Yayati said, "As supplying butter to a fire does not diminish it, but instead increases its magnitude even more, the endeavor to stop lusty desires by continual enjoyment can never be successful.

"When a man is not susceptible to envy and does not desire ill-fortune for others, he is equipoised. For him, all directions appear happy. For people who are too attached to material enjoyment, sense gratification is difficult to give up. Even when one is an invalid due to old age, one can't easily give up such desires.

Happiness

"Therefore, a person who desires real happiness must give up his unsatisfied desires, which cause tribulations. The senses are so strong that even though one is advanced in knowledge, he may be still be attracted to sex.

"I have spent 1,000 years enjoying sense gratification, yet my desire still increases daily. Therefore, I shall now give up these desires and meditate upon the Supreme Personality. Free from the dualities of mental concoction and false prestige, I shall wander in the forest with the animals.

Temporary

"Material happiness—whether good or bad—is useless and temporary. An intelligent person shouldn't try to enjoy (or even think of) such things. A self-realized person knows that material happiness makes a man forget about his constitutional position."

Having enjoyed sense gratification for many years, Yayati was accustomed to it. But, he gave it up entirely.

Because the king completely surrendered himself to the Supreme Person, he was freed. Because of self-realization and transcendence, he was able to fix his mind. Thus, he ultimately achieved the position of being the Lord's associate.

When Devayani heard Maharaj Yayati's story about the he-goat and the she-goat, she understood that the story, which was presented as an entertaining joke between a husband and wife, was intended to awaken her constitutional position.

Liberation

By the grace of God, Devayani gave up her imaginary position in the material world. By fixing her mind, she achieved liberation.

The incident enlightened both husband and wife. They attained spiritual wisdom and self-realization. The couple woke up to the reality of their situation—and to the higher purpose of their existence.

Fundraising concert

The world-acclaimed Philippine Madrigal Singers, fresh from winning the 35th Florilege Vocal de Tours in France, will hold a Christmas concert, "Kampana . . . Pagbabago, Pagdiriwang," at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo of the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Dec. 17. The Madz, founded by National Artist for Music Andrea O. Veneracion, will have a 2 p.m. matinee and a gala performance at 8 p.m. sponsored by the UP Alumni Association for the restoration of the historic UP Carillon as well as the development of the Carillon Park for *al fresco* musical events. Tickets are available at the UP Secretariat Room 211. Call 920-6871, 832-1125 loc. 1409, 832-3704, or Ticket World at 832-3706.

Docu is an urgent plea to save the planet

From page 12

If you think about it, practically everything that Gore shows us in the documentary is nothing that we haven't heard before. Yes, carbon dioxide emissions trapped in the atmosphere cause global warming. Yes, global warming is bad. Yes, when the ice on either Greenland or Antarctica melts—and it *is* melting—we will have to "redraw the map of the world." Not to mention suffer drought, flooding, super-typhoons and hurricanes, the lack of drinking water, etc.

The data has been building up over the years and still, the US—which is responsible for 30 percent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions—has a government that tells its people to think of global warming as a theory, *not* a fact!

Pictures

Gore is calm and matter-of-fact when he shows us the numbers and, more emotionally affecting, the pictures. The glaciers are constantly cracking and falling into the sea.

For the first time, scientists are finding polar bears that have drowned in search of solid ice. There is hardly any snow left on Kilimanjaro.

Erudite, engaging, and occasionally humorous, Gore brings these facts home forcefully, to us. This is a movie that will not leave anyone unaffected. And we all should be moved because the inconvenient truth in the film is that, if we *don't* do something in the next 10 years, the world will be a very bad place to live in for the next 50 years.

To find out more about what you can do, visit www.climatecrisis.net.

"ALL THE KING'S MEN IS A MASTERPIECE. SEAN PENN GIVES THE PERFORMANCE OF A LIFETIME. A MAGNIFICENT CAST. WORDS ESCAPE ME."
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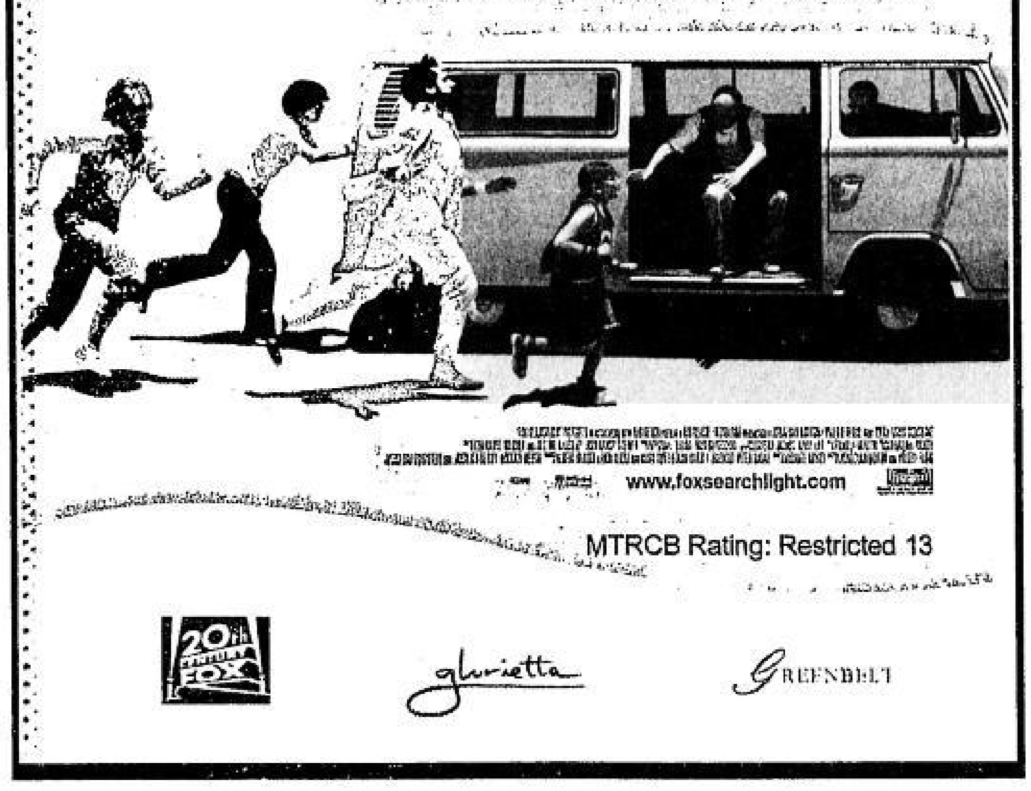
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Rolling Stone
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JACK BLACK
(THE STAR OF "KING KONG")
KYLE GASS
TENACIOUS D
THE PICK OF DESTINY

Dazzling and diverse collection

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

NICANOR G. TIGLAO WAS EDUCATed at St. Louie University and has a post-graduate degree in photogrammetric engineering (taking aerial photographs of satellite images and producing maps out of them) from the University of Stuttgart in Germany.

For years, Nyc, as he is called, traveled wherever his job (as an aerial surveyor) took him. Along the way, he amassed a dazzling and diverse collection of crystals, bone china, porcelain, ceramics, pottery, glassware, table linen and assorted rarities that date as far back as the 18th century.

Collecting watches is his first passion, followed by ceramics and porcelain. Now retired and back home for good, he commutes between Manila and Baguio with his wife and 14-year-old daughter.

Boutique

Tiglao has opened Nyc Tiglao Rarities, Inc., a boutique located at the first floor of the LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia st. (formerly Reposo), Bel-Air II, Makati City. Call or text 0919 568-9051.

Nyc started collecting watches during his teenage years. He later expanded by collecting art pieces when he started working in the United States.

He shares: "My tip to would-be collectors? Join clubs and guilds, attend trade shows, and travel. Don't invest in quartz, but on mechanical watches like Patek Philippe, which is the Rolls Royce of watches!"

500 items

Nyc Tiglao Rarities includes a collection of fine and complicated wristwatches, such as Blancpain, Breguet, Jaeger le Coultre, Frank Muller and Vachoron Constantin. The boutique carries 500 items, only half of his collection.

* * *

Join the Mandy Navasero Batanes Photo Safari on Holy Week 2007 for four days via Asian Spirit. Call 899-1767, or email mandynavasero@yahoo.com.ph.

TIGLAO. Started collecting watches during his teenage years.

When is Santa Claus coming. . .

From page 17

was only eight years old! Maybe she could try a *smaller* tree? (She was glad Terry wasn't here, or he would have said, "Duh!") She looked around and her gaze lit on a young *malunggay* tree. Perfect!

Heavy feeling

She hacked at it with the knife, but even though its trunk looked slender, it was tough. She dug the knife in, she sawed and pulled. But, when the tree finally fell down just as the night was slowly creeping in, there was a strange, heavy feeling in her heart.

Lisa sneaked back in, dragging the *malunggay* behind her. She was halfway up the stairs when it happened.

"Maria Lisa Rodriguez!"

She looked up to see her mother, all red-faced, at the top of the stairs.

"What—what—the *malunggay*!," gulped her mom, her voice rising to a screech. "What did you do?!"

Suddenly, everybody seemed to be there—her dad, Tita Clara, Manang Ising, and Terry. Lisa dropped the *malunggay* and watched it bump down to the bottom step. She felt hot and cold all over, with her tongue sticking to the back of her throat.

Shrill voice

"She took all of the toilet paper and cotton balls, even your printer paper, Dad," her mother went on in a shrill voice. "I went inside her room and they're in bits and pieces all over the place! And look at the *malunggay*!"

"I just, I was just borrowing it," Lisa stuttered.

"Borrowing it!," exploded her mother. "You can't borrow trees! And what is going on here, anyway? Whatever were you thinking?"

"I think," her father sternly said, "you had better explain, young lady."

Snow

Lisa dropped down to the step and cried. In between sobs, she told them about Santa Claus and chimneys and snow and real Christmas trees. "I just wanted Santa to come here!," she wailed.

Her parents joined her on the steps and looked at her gravely.

"Aren't you forgetting something?," her mother asked. "Santa doesn't care if your house has a chimney, or if there's snow where you live, or if you have a Christmas tree. He only cares if you've been good—if you've been nice and kind to others."

"And have you?," asked her father. "Do you think Santa would approve of what you've been doing? Don't think I haven't noticed that you and your cousin are always fighting. And why did you have to cut down that poor *malunggay* tree?"

Lisa cried even harder. "I'm sorry," she said.

"It's my fault," Terry suddenly spoke up. Lisa stopped in mid-sob. She could hardly believe her ears! Terry looked like he was about to cry, too. "I was the one who told her about the tree and the snow and everything. I told her to do it."

"Oh, Terry," Tita Clara said. "Why?"

Behavior

"All right, you two," Lisa's dad said, "this is not the kind of behavior we expect from either of you—and on Christmas, too!"

"I'm sorry," Lisa cried. She looked at Terry wonderingly. "We're sorry."

"I think you two should go upstairs and clean up the mess you made," her mother said. "And think about how bad you have been behaving, while you're at it."

Lisa looked around her room. The wind must have come in and blown her pile of snow around.

"Wow," Terry said, "you did this?"

"I said I was sorry."

"No, it's pretty cool. It looks like snow."

"Yeah?" She looked at him. "Why did you say you told me to do it? You didn't."

"Because," he squirmed. "Just because, okay? And I'm sorry I called you a moron."

"I'm sorry, too," she said. "That I kicked you and everything. And, thanks."

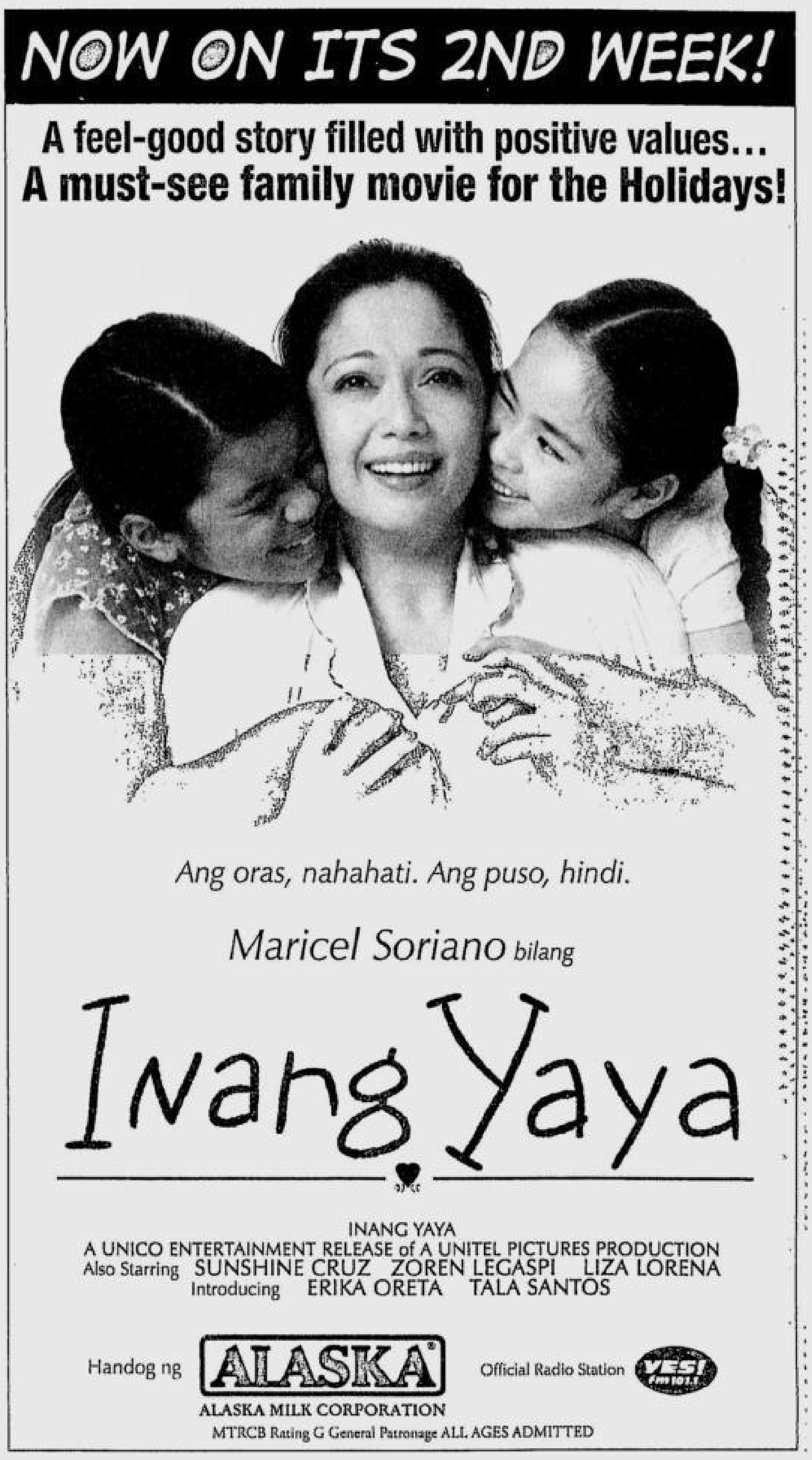
So inviting

By the time they'd swept all the "snow" back into one pile, it looked so inviting that they rolled around in it, laughing together, and had to do it all over again.

And so, did Santa Claus make an appearance at Lisa's house? Well, nobody can really say for sure because nobody actually saw him.

All they saw was a little old man in a funny outfit who looked like a *nuno sa punso*, carrying a bag full of—gifts?

Certainly, he couldn't be Santa Claus—or our very own St.Nick—or *Ingkong Kulas*—or, *could* he?!



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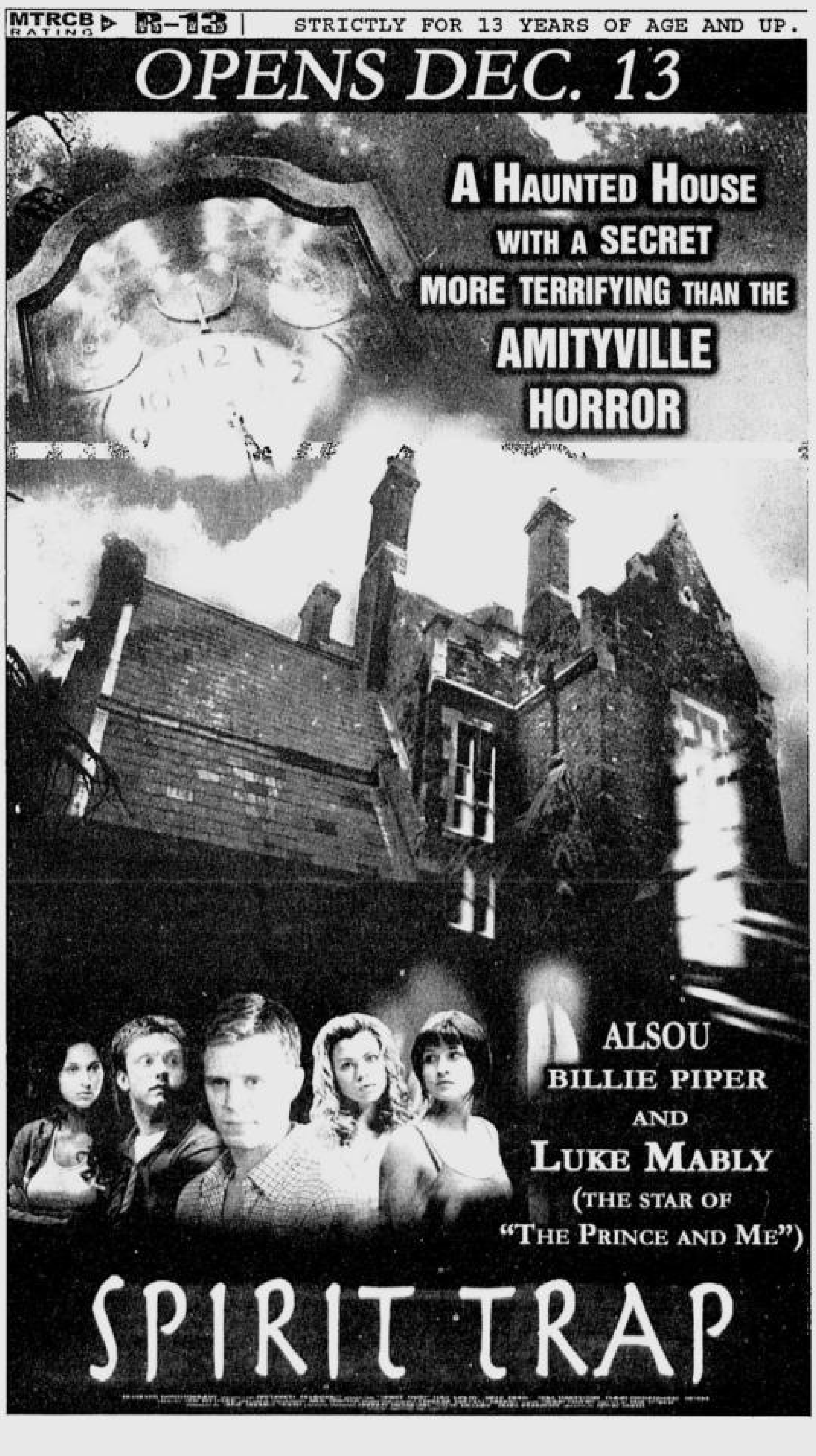

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Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
INANG YAYA 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40
DECK THE HALLS 5:00 / 9:30
THE RETURN 1:00 / 3:00 / 7:10
HAPPY FEET 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
KAMASUTRA 3 12:50 / 3:05 / 5:20 / 7:35 / 9:50
CASINO ROYALE 1:20 / 4:10 / 7:00 / 9:50
REYNA 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
ALL THE KING'S MEN 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
Ali MALL 5
1 INANG YAYA 11:55 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35
2 CASINO ROYALE 12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
3 THE NATIVITY 1:05 / 3:30 / 5:55 / 8:20
4 REYNA 11:45 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25
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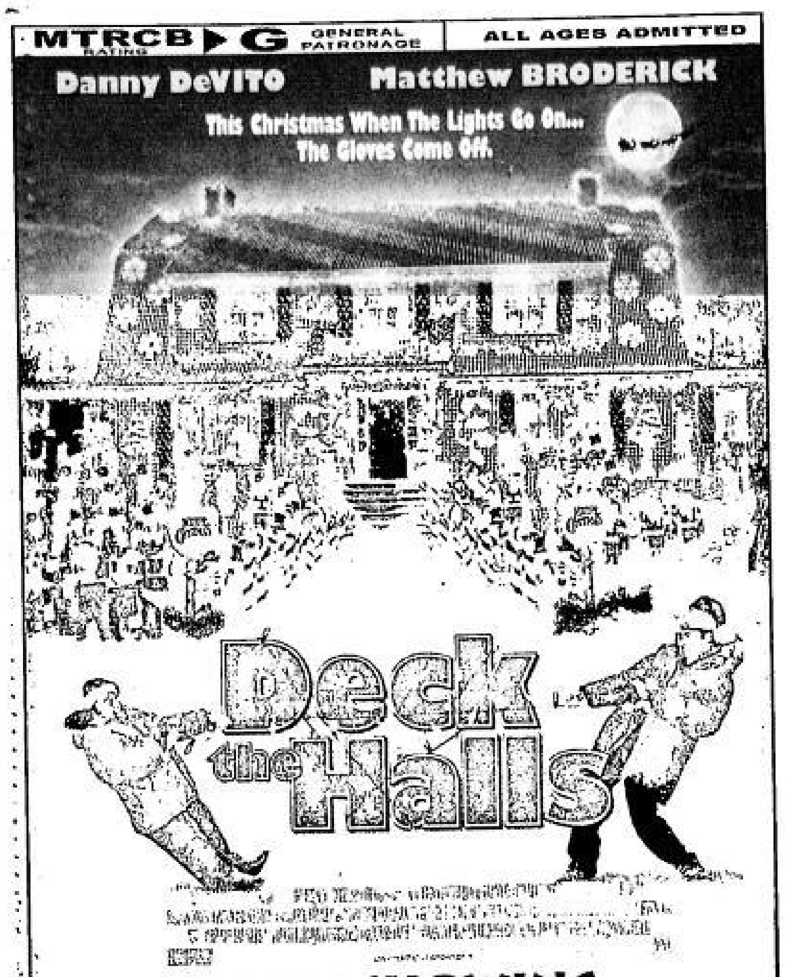
This Christmas When The Lights Go On...
The Gloves Come Off.



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DECK THE HALLS **G** 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25	**HAPPY FEET** **G** 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30	**A GOOD YEAR** **PG13** 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15
CASINO ROYALE 007 **PG13** 1:15,4:10,7:05,10:00	**BORAT** **R18** 2:00,4:00, 6:00, 8:00,10:00	**THE NATIVITY STORY** **PG13** 1:35,3:45,5:55, 8:05,10:15

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MTRCB PG-13
1.45, 4.30, 7:15, 10:00

② **THE NATIVITY**
MTRCB, GP
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

③ **HAPPY FEET**
MTRCB GP
12.05, 2.30, 5.00, 7:30, 10:00

④ **CASINO ROYALE**
MTRCB PG-13
12 55, 4.00, 7.05, 10.10

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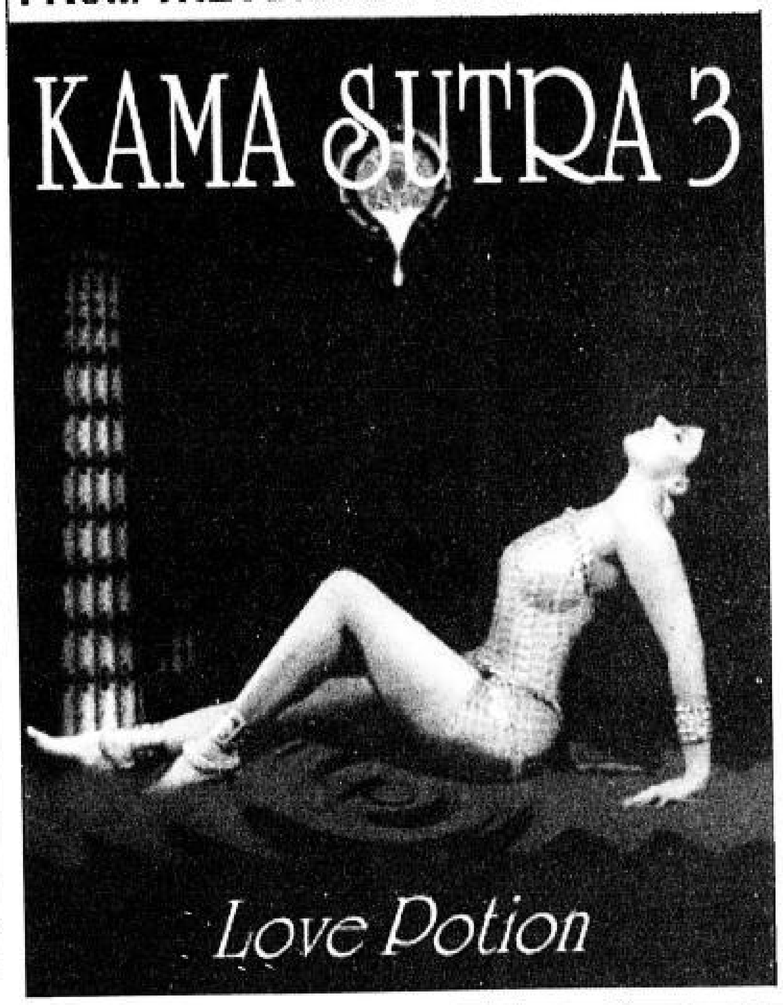
DISCOVER THE SECRETS FROM THE ANCIENT BOOK OF LOVE

KAMA SUTRA 3



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CINEMA		
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4	CASINO ROYALE	12:10, 3:20, 6:30 9:40 PG13
5	HAPPY FEET	11:00, 1:15, 3:35, 5:55, 8:15, 10:35 GP

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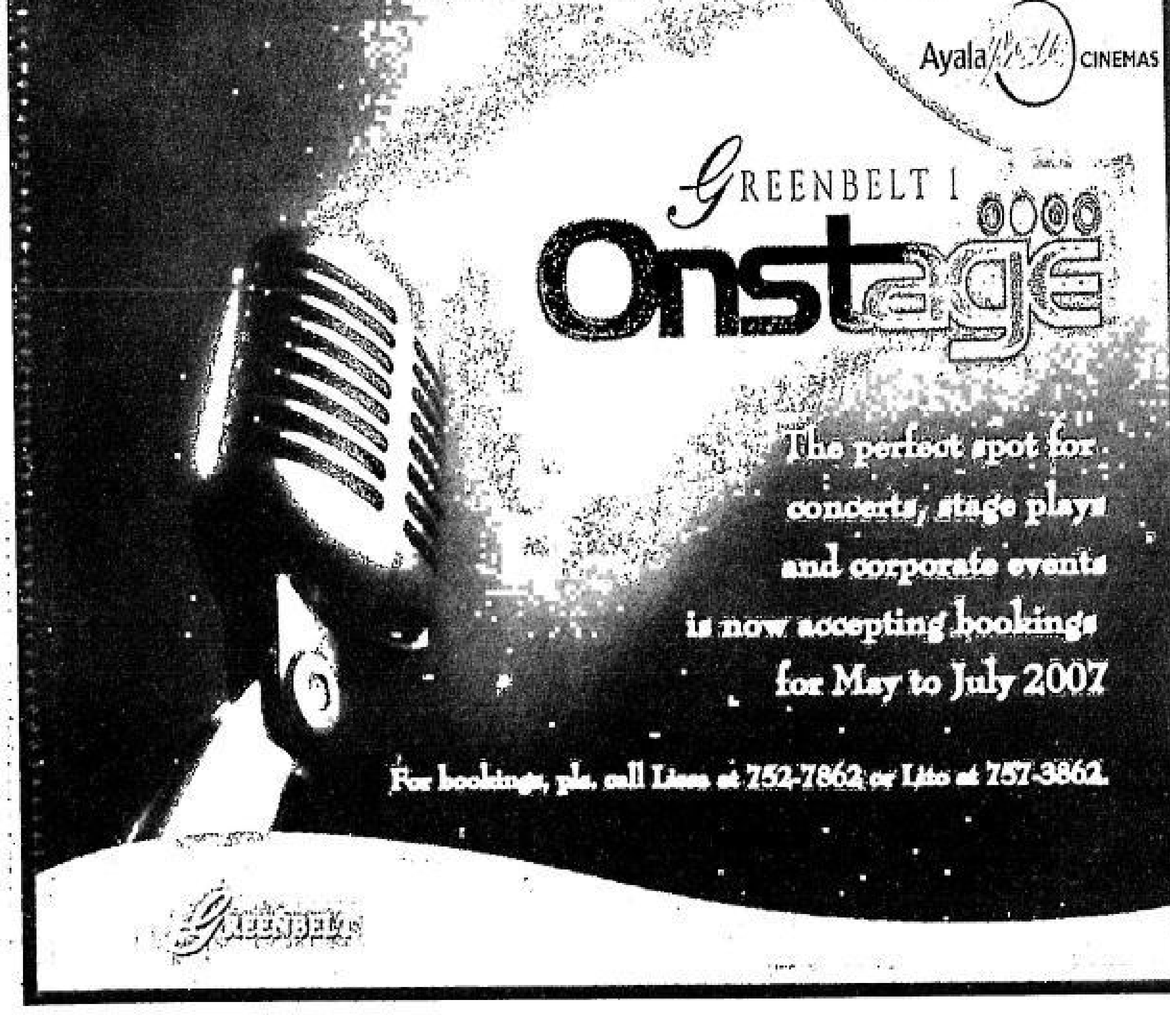
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 HAPPY FEET	2 ALL THE KING'S MEN	3 THX A GOOD YEAR GUARANTEED SEATS	4 BORAT	5 THE RETURN	6 THE NATIVITY	7 CASINO ROYALE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 HAPPY FEET	2 THE NATIVITY					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX HAPPY FEET GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE NATIVITY GUARANTEED SEATS	3 ALL THE KING'S MEN GUARANTEED SEATS	4 A GOOD YEAR GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CASINO ROYALE GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE NATIVITY GUARANTEED SEATS	2 A GOOD YEAR	3 HAPPY FEET	4 DECK THE HALLS	5 CASINO ROYALE		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE NATIVITY	2 HAPPY FEET	3 THE MARINE	4 REYNA			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 REYNA	2 THE NATIVITY	3 A GOOD YEAR	4 HAPPY FEET	5 INANG YAYA		

Ayala Malls CINEMAS



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Nov 25 - 2pm, 5pm
Nov 26 - 2pm, 5pm
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ALABANG TOWN CENTER
December 1-3, 2006
Dec 1 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Dec 2 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Dec 3 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
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Nov 17 - 4pm, 6:30pm
Nov 18 - 11am, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm
Nov. 19 - 11am, 3pm, 6:30pm
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Concierge Hotline : (032) 231-5342 loc. 324
09178802327

www.ayalamalls.com.ph

When is Santa Claus coming . . .

From page 18

"You're lying. I bet your mom gave it to you."

"You know Mom would never get me an X-box."

Know-it-all cousin

Lisa paused. Much as she hated to admit it, her know-it-all cousin had a point. Tita Clara, her mother's sister and Terry's mom, was a notorious pinchpenny. For Tita Clara, an X-box would be nothing but a horrible waste of money.

"So, maybe she wasn't the one who got it for you," Lisa said, "but somebody else could've."

"We didn't know anybody in New Jersey then. There was just Mom and me, remember? It was definitely from Santa. Gee, you second-graders are so ignorant."

Lisa didn't even notice the insult. There were more important things to worry about—such as why Santa would give a present to Terry, who was such a snot, and not to her when she was ever so much nicer. Oh, dear, and Christmas was only three days away!

"But—but, I wrote him a letter last year, too!," she burst out. "And he didn't give me my present! And I wrote another one this year!"

"I told you: It's because he would never come here."

"But, why not?"

"Duh! Do you have a chimney?"

"No."

"Do you have snow?"

"Um, no?"

"Do you have a Christmas tree?"

"Yes! Yes! We have one over there, can't you see?"

"That's not a real tree, that's just plastic."

"Well, it *looks* real…"

"Huh, you can't fool Santa. He'd know it's fake. Do you have a stocking?"

"Mama has—plenty! She keeps them in a drawer near her dresser."

Most important

"Well, that's the only thing you have then, and it's not even the most important." Terry shook his head sadly, and smiled. "Good thing he knows where I really live, though. At least, I'll have a present from Santa waiting for me when Mom and I get back to the States."

That smile, Lisa thought as she watched her cousin saunter to the kitchen, was just evil. Humph, so he thought Santa wasn't going to come here, did he? She gritted her teeth and swallowed her mixed feelings of disappointment and envy. We'll see about that!

The next day, after three long and sweaty hours of work, she looked up with satisfaction at the new chimney rising up beside her second-storey bedroom window.

In reality, it was just a length of blue PVC pipe that she'd stuck to the wall with crisscrosses of silver packing tape. (She'd had more than a few bad moments there, half in and half out of the window with the ground suddenly looking like it was a long way down. —But it *sort* of *looked* like it protruded from the roof.)

All she had to do was light a fire at one end, and once the smoke puffed out at the top, why, it would officially be a chimney, right? Right. Now all she needed were snow and a real tree—but not before lunch, she thought as her stomach suddenly moaned and grumbled for immediate attention.

Plan

For once Lisa didn't mind having to get along with Terry at the dinner table. He kept smirking and making faces at her, but all she had to do was think about her plan, and she'd feel all smug and excited inside. She gave him an extra-sweet smile and kicked his shin under the table. She couldn't wait to see the look on his face when he would see her getting a present from Santa!

After lunch, while everybody was taking their siesta, she snuck into her mom's supply cabinet and grabbed all the cotton balls and toilet paper rolls she could find. Her dad's office yielded reams and reams of paper. Lisa looked down at her pile of purloined goods and bit her lip.

Boy, was she going to be in trouble if her parents found out! But then again, it was for Santa, so maybe they wouldn't mind. Now, all she had to do was tear everything into itty bitty pieces so it'd look like snow. She bit her lip again: This was going to take a while.

"Rise and shine!"

Cheerful voice

Lisa winced, her mother's cheerful voice sounded like an elephant's trumpet cry to her ears. She pulled a pillow over her head and tried to block out the morning sunshine and her mom's chattering about the preparations going on in the kitchen—and wasn't it strange that all the cotton balls and toilet paper seemed to have disappeared?

"You get up now," her mom went on, lifting the pillow. "Go down, have breakfast and play with your cousin—that's a good girl!"

Grumbling, Lisa let herself get dragged from bed and tottered downstairs still rubbing the sleep from her eyes. Boy, she was so tired and sleepy! She'd stayed up practically all night making "snow" (safely hidden inside an old *batya* under her bed), and she just hoped her mother wouldn't notice the little bits she'd missed on the floor.

"Dad," she asked in between swallows of *champorado*, "where do Christmas trees grow?"

He looked at her over the newspaper. "Christmas trees? You mean pine trees? Baguio, I guess."

"Baguio?! But that's a thousand kilometers away!"

Even better

He chuckled and patted her hand. "It's a bit far from here, yes. But, we have a Christmas tree right here already—and it's even better because we get to reuse it every year."

"I suppose so," she mumbled into her bowl as her father went back to reading. But, she needed a real tree!

Terry was buried in a comic when she went to find him. "Hey, you," she said to his bent head, "does the tree have to be a pine tree?"

He blinked up at her. "What tree?"

"The tree—the Christmas tree!"

"Why do you want to know?"

"Because."

"Well, I'm not going to tell you."

"Oh, all right," she fumed, "have it your way."

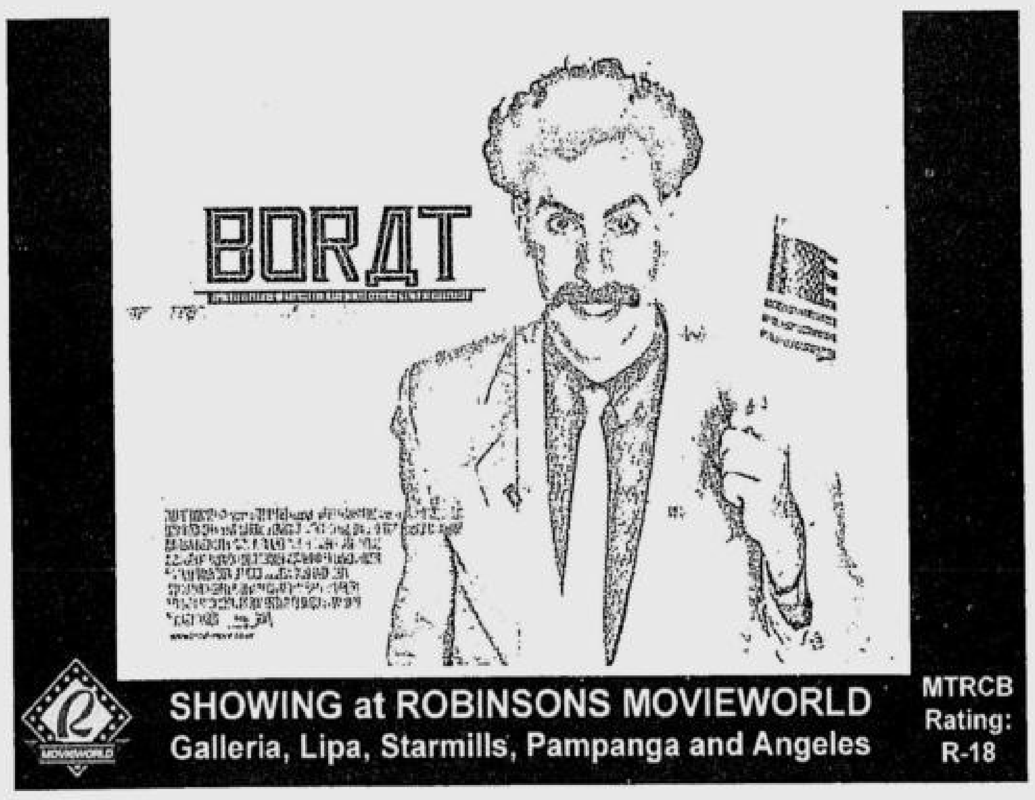
Garden

Lisa stomped off to the garden at the back of their house and looked at the trees. None of them was a pine tree. Yesterday, Terry didn't actually say it had to be a pine tree, did he? He just said it had to be real—as in not plastic. All these trees were real. Surely, it would be okay if she borrowed one of them?

The kitchen, when Lisa nonchalantly entered, was overflowing with food, but only Manang Ising was there, bent over the oven and muttering. On tiptoe, Lisa sidled over to the counter, carefully picked up a knife, and crept back out into the garden.

Trees, Lisa thought with a grimace after what seemed like hours, weren't easy to "borrow." Her knife was small, the guava tree was huge—and she

WHEN/15



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2 HAPPY FEET
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6 THE NATIVITY

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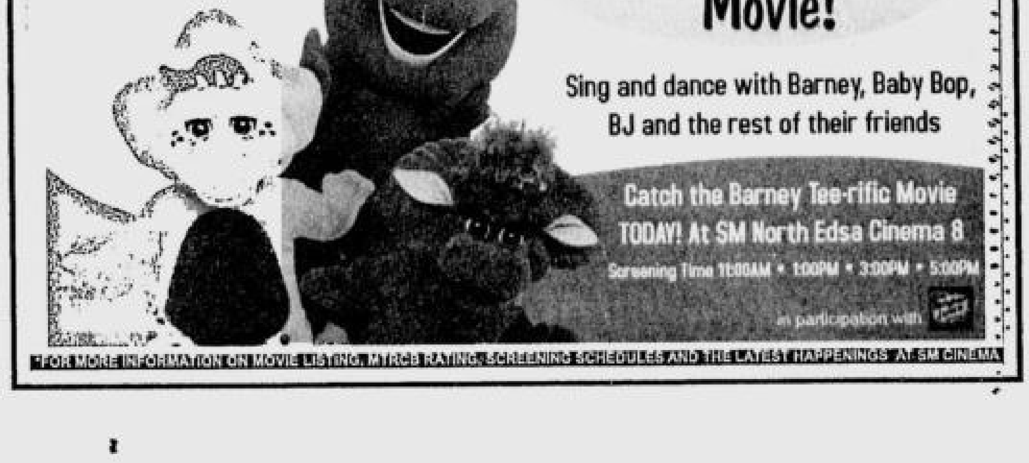
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YULETIDE STORY FOR YOUNG READERS

When is Santa Claus coming to town?

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

By Noelani Torre

"SANTA CLAUS IS NEVER GOING TO COME here," Lisa's cousin, Terry, suddenly announced in the middle of "The Nightmare Before Christmas."

Lisa frowned at him. Couldn't he see that Jack, the Pumpkin King, was about to go down in flames? It was the most exciting part of the movie! Couldn't he shut up? "Never, never, never, never, never," Terry went on in an irritating, little singsong.

Obnoxious

Lisa tried to block out her cousin's voice as Jack crashed and burned onscreen. Some people, she thought, just couldn't help being annoying, obnoxious braggarts who acted as though they knew everything just because they'd gone to the States and other people hadn't. And if some people wouldn't stop chanting "never" and jumping up and down on the couch, Lisa would make them real sorry!

"Well, moron," Terry said with a smirk, "don't you want to know why?" Lisa couldn't believe that she'd actually been excited about his being back home for Christmas.

"That's only according to you—and you don't know anything!"

"That's what you think. I know everything about Santa Claus! Have you ever sent him a letter? Well, I have—and with a stamp and all," Terry announced proudly.

"I bet he didn't answer. I bet you put the wrong stamp, and he didn't even get it."

"Hah, that's what you think!"

"What? He did? May I see his letter to you?"

"Of course he didn't, you moron! Don't you know anything? Santa doesn't write back, he just gives you the present you asked for. Last Christmas, I asked for an X-box and got it."

WHEN/17

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Blast from the Past in our Fashion Future

It all started two years ago with the return of the Aviators pioneered by Ray-ban. Those wire-framed pilot-looking suns that were popularized by Tom Cruise in his 1986 movie Top Gun were again seen on different celebrities and social icons. Their return came with an array of different colors evolving from the classic style to returning with pink and yellow lenses together with the classic green and changeable brown lenses.

It seems that we loved the outcome so much that we dug farther and found our new must have eyewear for the future. They were the big black sunglasses that dictated cool for three decades. This was worn by Audrey Hepburn in Breakfast at Tiffany's and lasted upto the young Tom Cruise in Risky business.

While the new Ray-ban Wayfarers have kept their overall original look, Ray-ban's coming out next year with a more feminine version with softer edges than that of the old boxy type. And like the Aviator we can expect that Ray-ban will come out with exciting changes for the Wayfarers starting with its new colors red and white.

These new and improved Wayfarers were unveiled last October by Ray-ban at a global fashion trade fair in Paris. Since then, several celebrities have caught on the trend including Kirsten Dunst and Sienna Miller who were recently photographed wearing Wayfarers.

I guess history does repeat itself and in this case, it does with a little something new for the ladies. The new Wayfarers are expected to hit Philippines by summer of 2007.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2006

Dare to inquire... Still #1 @21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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SANDY PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
President/CEO

Are we ready for tomorrow?

The INQUIRER is embracing the world of new media. The readers can be assured that we will stay attuned to their ever-changing need for information. We will give the news INQUIRER style—anytime, anywhere. In a nutshell, I am certain that the Inquirer will always be ready for tomorrow because we will always be asking ourselves: "Is this the best that we can be?"

MARIXI R. PRIETO
Chair/PDI Board

Are we ready for challenges that investing in the Inquirer will bring?

This was the question Marixi R. Prieto asked herself 14 years ago. Since then she has led the company through the toughest challenges, including harassment through a five-month ad boycott, special investigation into her other businesses and threats of multimillion-peso lawsuits. She has also declined extreme pressures for her to sell the INQUIRER because she felt a change in ownership would change the mission of the paper.

IN 21 YEARS A RESPECTABLE newspaper should be able to solidify its reputation for both accurate and fearless reporting of the news, and that is exactly what the INQUIRER has done.

Having survived often painful political and economic realities, the INQUIRER is adapting to new technologies and redefining the coverage and delivery of news according to what readers want and need.

There is so much to look forward to, foremost of which is how the INQUIRER can continue to present balanced news, fearless views and other values worth pursuing in the years to come.

THE QUESTION REVISITED

What is happening to our country?

By Monica Feria

WHAT'S HAPPENING to our country, general?'

Former Vice President and diplomat Emmanuel Pelaez blurted out the question as he was being wheeled through a hospital emergency room, bleeding from a would-be assassin's bullet in 1982.

Then 10 years since martial law was declared in the Philippines, when those who criticized Ferdinand Marcos faced detention or disappearance, the question was provocative and compelling.

Pelaez, a politician from war-torn Mindanao, survived that attack and lived 21 more years—long enough to see the general to whom he had raised his beseeching and piercing eyes that tragic day, police general Tomas Karingal, himself gunned down by an assassin's bullet in 1984. Long enough too, to see the suspected assassin of the general, a bright university-student-turned-rebel leader Filemon Lagman, assassinated in turn by hit men of a rival rebel faction.

Barely a year after the attempted assassination of Pelaez, opposition leader Benigno Aquino, returning from exile, was assassinated at the Manila International Airport while in the clutches of military security.

The controlled press kept much of the growing chaos and discontent sparked by the Aquino assassination out of public scrutiny. Communist insurgency was spreading throughout the country. Marcos had become the best recruiter of the rebel groups. Moro separatist rebellion tied down government forces in Mindanao, while waves of financial scandals weakened the government's capacity to deal with yet another international energy crisis. Meanwhile, the dictator was ill and a succession struggle was turning ugly.

At this point, the Philippine Daily Inquirer was born in 1985.

Over the past 21 years, the INQUIRER has covered two successful People Power revolts that toppled presidents, numerous coup attempts and four presidential elections, while monitoring the slow—sometimes uplifting, sometimes frustrating—march toward democratic renewal and economic reform.

Pelaez's question has survived him, remaining as relevant today as it was over two decades ago.

Today, as we mark our 21st year of inquiring, we list just a few of the compelling questions of our time.

1. Who masterminded the Aquino assassination?

A five-man fact-finding board headed by Judge Corazon Agrava was tasked with answering this question amid daily protest rallies since the assassination of Aquino on Aug. 21, 1983 at the Manila International Airport.

After more than a year of tense and dangerous questioning, they concluded that a "military conspiracy" was responsible for the murder of Aquino and the mysterious Rolando Galman. The Agrava Board was split on how up the ladder of responsibility they would go, with four commissioners and the chief prosecutor, Andres Narvasa, breaking away to point the crime all the way up to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Fabian Ver.

The accused military officers and men of the Aviation Security Command were at first acquitted by the Sandiganbayan. Later, the Supreme Court ordered a new trial and on Sept. 28, 1990, 16 soldiers were sentenced to two life sentences each.

But the actual triggerman and the mastermind were never identified. Are they still moving among us?

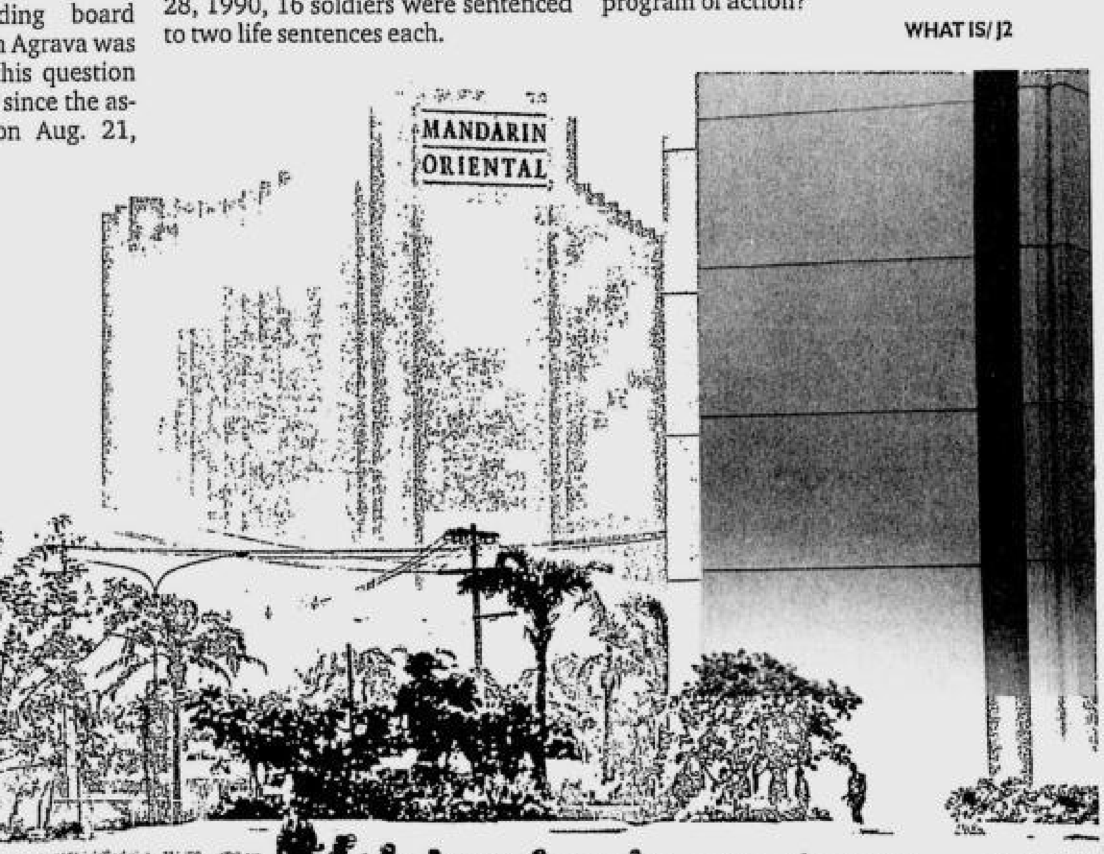
The question will hover over the nation for a long time—a symbol of the continuing quest for justice, and a reminder of the need for continued vigilance against the abuse of power.

2. What's the alternative?

Chino Roces, former Manila Times publisher and opposition leader, posed the question in a forum of opposition groups in October 1985. Confronted with steadily growing defiance on the streets, Ferdinand Marcos had agreed to a snap election. Could the opposition get its act together and field a strong leader with a unified program of action?

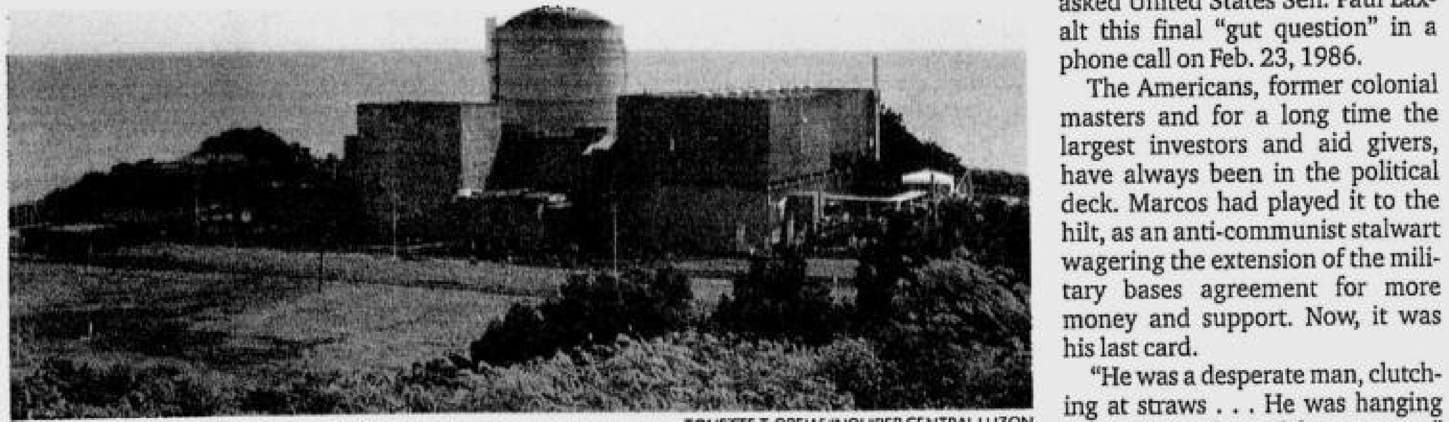
WHAT IS/ J2

THE MT. PINATUBO eruption provided new lessons in disaster preparedness. News photographers run for their lives in this scene in San Marcelino, Zambales, in June 1991. BOY CABRIDO



MILITARY adventurism may now appear to be a permanent part of the political landscape. Soldiers in December 1989 take a rest while waiting orders from mutineers inside the Twin Towers in Makati City. BOY CABRIDO

What is happening to our country?



TONETTE T. OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

THE MOTHBALLED nuclear power plant in Morong, Bataan, today remains an idle structure that still bleeds taxpayers about $155,000 daily for debt servicing.

From page J1

In 1986, the opposition had put on its best united front, convincing the slain leader's widow Corazon Aquino to lead the fight. Roces gathered 1 million signatures in her favor. Salvador Laurel, leader of the dominant Unido party struggled with his own question: Should I give way? Eventually he did, making what he said was the "hardest decision in his life."

The same pivotal question is posed today before every major electoral battle or issue. More recently, President Macapagal-Arroyo's supporters, responding to an opposition call for her resignation, throw the challenge: What or who is the alternative? Said Palace spokesperson Ignacio Bunye: "Who do they want to put in power? Rez Cortes?"

3. Shall I call people to go to Edsa?

Cardinal Sin had this quick query-response when he was informed of the unfolding mutiny at Camp Aguinaldo led by Marcos' longtime Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Vice Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos on Feb. 22, 1986.

The response has since defined the new politics of the post-Aquino era. More than just the traditional rally in Plaza Miranda, Edsa has become synonymous with non-violent urban revolt.

Cardinal Sin's response also stressed the role of the Church and other non-traditional associations that had suddenly become key political players, in addition to mutinous soldiers, themselves organized into an activist reform movement.

People came to Edsa, millions of them, a phenomena unprecedented in Philippine history.

Popular Corazon Aquino had risen to the occasion in 1985 and led these anti-Marcos forces through a grueling and violence-marred snap election, a civil disobedience campaign, and finally, in February 1986, a people-power revolt which brought down the Marcos dictatorship, swept her to power and inspired oppressed people everywhere.

4. Senator, What should I do?

President Marcos, dictator for 14 years, now ill and embattled, asked United States Sen. Paul Laxalt this final "gut question" in a phone call on Feb. 23, 1986.

The Americans, former colonial masters and for a long time the largest investors and aid givers, have always been in the political deck. Marcos had played it to the hilt, as an anti-communist stalwart wagering the extension of the military bases agreement for more money and support. Now, it was his last card.

"He was a desperate man, clutching at straws . . . He was hanging on, looking for a life preserver," Laxalt, a good friend of US President Ronald Reagan, was quoted as saying by The Associated Press.

The answer was his ultimate disappointment: "Cut and cut clean, the time has come," Laxalt had told Marcos, reflecting the cold realities of this special relationship.

The United States later sent a helicopter to ferry Marcos and his family out of the country.

They then scurried to sent Aquino promises of aid and support.

5. Can't we do without the Americans?

Sen. Wigberto Tañada, opened this question during the campaign to end the tenure of nearly a century of US bases in the Philippines.

President Aquino, by this time, had learned to play the American card. Earlier, on Dec. 1, 1989, US Air Force jets flew cover for government forces battling military mutineers in what was the most serious attempt to oust her. Her coffers were nearly empty and over $200 million in military and economic support funds that would come with the renegotiation of the US-RP bases agreement was badly needed.

From cities like Olongapo, which thrived on military R&R strips, entertainment workers posed their own question: What will happen to us?

But on Sept. 16, 1991, 12 senators, dubbed magnificent by the media, against 11 voted to close down the US bases.

Subic and Clark are now free port zones. In place of the bases agreement, a new Visiting Forces Agreement was signed in 1999.

6. Why should we pay for electricity we didn't use?

This common question was vocalized by party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran, who refused for six months in 2002 to pay the full amount on his electricity bill because of his opposition to Manila Electric Co.'s collection of what is called the purchased power adjustment (PPA).

The PPA is an automatic cost-recovery mechanism, which distributors like Meralco collect to cover the cost of electricity above the government-approved basic charge. Meralco eventually cut off his electricity.

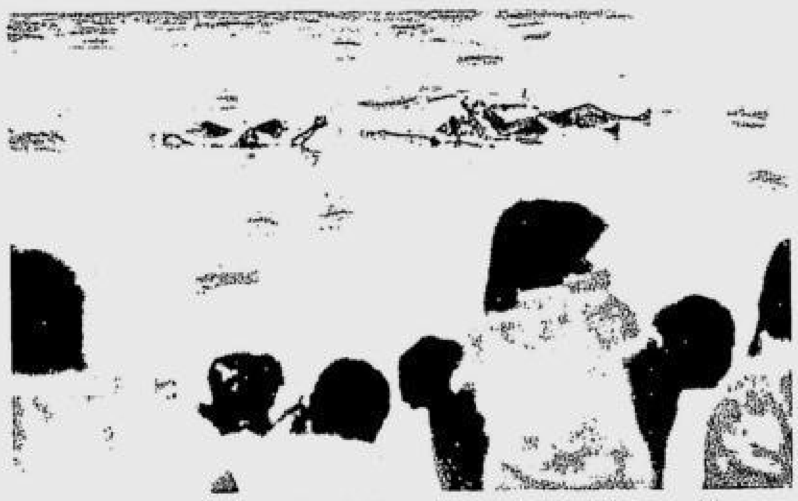
The bigger question is why power rates in the Philippines are among the highest in the region. The answer goes back to decades of mismanagement, which forced a high cost emergency response to stop debilitating brownouts during the term of President Fidel Ramos, who succeeded Ms Aquino. The response included giving independent power producers (IPPs) generous incentives like the "take or pay" or "minimum off-take clause" in their contracts in which the government must pay for the power that the IPPs did not produce.

The high cost of electricity in the Philippines is cited by businessmen's associations as one of the top reasons why investors stay away.

7. Who allowed the overcrowded Doña Paz out of the harbor?

The question was posed to Coast Guard authorities during Senate investigations into the sinking of the Doña Paz in December 1987 which saw over 1,500 perish in one

WHAT IS/ J3



SURVIVORS of the Doña Paz sinking, the worst peacetime maritime disaster in the world.

BOY CABRIDO

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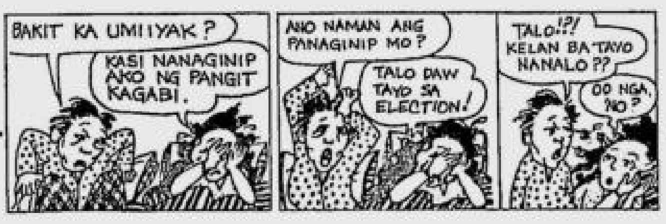

BAKIT KA UMIIYAK?
KASI NANAGINIP AKO NG PANGIT KAGABI.
ANO NAMAN ANG PANAGINIP MO?
TALO DAW TAYO SA ELECTION!
TALO!?! KELAN BA TAYO NANALO??
OO NGA, 'NO?

CAPTION THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG

What is happening to our country?

PEOPLE power alive and well in the Edsa II revolt against Estrada in January 2001

EDWIN BACASMAS

From page J2

of the worst peacetime maritime disasters in the world.

Officials could not even come out with an immediate list of possible casualties because of the usual practice of overcrowding or overloading. In many ships, it turns out that people are able to slip in without formal documents. Officials concede that pier officials may have received bribes from interisland shipping companies whose vessels routinely load more passengers than authorized.

The Philippines has a history of shipping disasters, and in most cases the same problems of overcrowding and lack of safety facilities emerge.

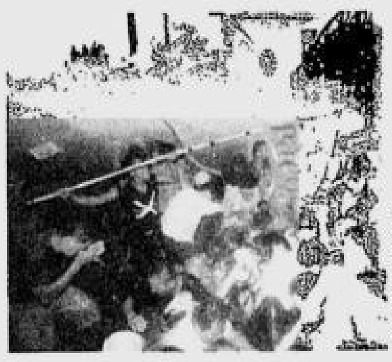
8. Why does Erap always wear a wristband?

The question is a joke, one of many which were initially passed around as a gimmick for the presidential campaign of Joseph Estrada or "Erap", a popular actor and city mayor who had dropped out of college. The answer, listed in a proliferation of Erap joke sites, is so he can tell the difference between his right and left hand.

But the jokes would later come painfully down on the whole nation when it seemed the popular Erap, who won by a record 11 million votes, could not tell the difference between right and wrong deals, and reportedly spent much of his time drinking and carousing with his many wives.

It was reported that attempts of his cronies to play the stock market almost led to the collapse of the government and private social security system, whose funds had been used.

After an embarrassing exposé linking him to payoffs from illegal gambling, and an impeachment trial that revealed that a bank account which received illicit funds under the name Jose Velarde, reportedly belonged to Estrada and his crony.



DENNIS SABANGAN

ERAP loyalists failed in their attempt to stage their own people power revolt. Police dispersed them with water cannons on May 1, 2001, ending their camp-out in front of Malacañang.

9. What shall I do with the money?

Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson asked this question to Erap gambling crony Atong Ang when they met sometime in July 1998. Singson, who survived an assassination attempt allegedly by Erap or his cronies, decided it was time to rat on what he said was a Malacañang-based cabal out to control illegal "jueteng"—and ease him out.

According to Singson, Ang had a tiff with the President and was in a sore mood that day. "Give him the money. I know he's rapacious," he reportedly replied in the vernacular.

Chavit's multimillion-peso payoff exposé set off the impeachment trial and a growing clamor for Estrada's resignation that eventually led to his unceremonious ouster after a second people power revolt.

Illegal jueteng operations are loudly whispered to be the unofficial pork barrel of politicians, military officials and even some media men long before Estrada stepped into office. Estrada denied any wrongdoing, stressing that he never dipped his wristbanded hand into "official" coffers.

The all-too public display of jueteng pork had been his undoing. But clearly it has not stopped the illicit activity—or, many believe, the illicit payoffs.

10. Was Erap ousted by a coup-d'text?

This question was "texted" around after the successful Edsa II revolt which many observers now say was lightning quick because of new mobile communication, now estimated to cover 30 million users.

"Would People Power II have been the same without text messaging, e-mail, the Internet and of course, the Metro Rail Transit?" wrote Erwin L. G. Oliva in an article titled "How IT Deleted Erap."

Text messages averaged 85 to 95 million per day between Jan. 16 and 20, upholding the country's new title as the texting capital of the world.

In the early days of cell phones, they were only for the rich and powerful. That changed in the mid '90s when cell phone companies began targeting the mass market with competitive price busting promotions.

WHAT IS/ J6

WAS PRESIDENT Estrada deposed in a coup d'text?

EDWIN BACASMAS

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PROGRAMA KO
HA? ANO YAN?!
AKALA KO SINISIGURO MO NA ANG PWESTO MO HANGGANG YEAR 2000.

Bandera: Hail to super Pinoys

By the Bandera Editorial Team

WE BELIEVE IN THE GREATNESS OF THE FILIPINO spirit, and that it resides among all of us, no matter what our circumstances in life. Thus, we present to you 21 Filipinos who are not necessarily famous. But who needs famous when you have greatness of spirit? Simply makes us want to say, "I-Bandera mo!"

MORE THAN 1,000 MAY HAVE PERISHED FROM MUDSLIDE 4
Bandera
ENTERTAINMENT
'Binastos niya ang pagkababae ko!' – Vina
8
SPORTS
No gold yet for RP in Doha Asiad
16
Kawatan umuwing luhaan 3
SM
GU
Nicole malungk
Bandera
MINDANAO
LOTTO RESULTS
GMP
KULATADO
MAS MAY POWER ANG PISO MO!

BANDERA, a nationwide tabloid of Inquirer Publications Inc., has a Mindanao version (below right). A slightly bigger version (below left) is circulated in Luzon, including Metro Manila, and the Visayas.

1 Super Student Raymond Joseph Amurao

FINALLY, somebody found good use for that janitor fish that pest the Marikina River. And he's only 17 years old.

What started as a science project at the Marikina City High School last school year became the ticket for worldwide recognition for Raymond Joseph Amurao.

Amurao, described by his mother Janet as an average student, stumbled into a gold mine by turning the oil extracted from the pesky fish into biofuel that can be used in motor vehicles. His discovery won 3rd Place in this year's Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in the US city of Indianapolis.

Amurao's initial experiment with 12 kilos of janitor fish produced 500 milliliters of processed fuel.

The Marikina City government has launched several programs since 2004 to stop the fish that feed on algae and deprive other fish of nutrients from populating. Now thanks to Amurao, Marikina may never have to do so.

2 Super Girl Cristina Bugayong

THE question arises: Would others have done the same?

Cristina Bugayong, 12, lives in a cramped house with her parents and seven siblings.

The sixth-grader goes to a public school with only P10 in her pocket, and helps sell cafeteria food in her free time. Her mother Luzviminda is the breadwinner of the household, but is barely able to make ends meet.

When Cristina picked up at least P300,000 one night in January, she could very well have changed her life as she knew it.

But the idea of making off with the money just did not occur to her.

"*Hindi naman sa akin 'yun, e* (It wasn't mine)," she said shyly during an interview near the makeshift family home in Quezon City.

Against the advice of neighbors, Cristina decided that the money would be returned to its owner.

GMA 7 reported days later that Cristina had turned over the money to the rightful owner, a messenger.

3-4 Super Cops Edgardo Layague and Nestor Omit

EDGARDO Layague, of the Sasa police station, and Nestor Omit, a taxi driver, returned a handbag with P4 million in foreign currency to a Filipina who flew to Davao with her German husband in March 2003 for a vacation. The couple had left the bag in the van they had rented from the Davao airport.

5 Super Guard Oscar Maucea

AS a security guard of the Power Plant mall at the Rockwell Center in Makati, Oscar Maucea proved his worth as an honest man when he returned the P100,000 he found while making his rounds in May 2003, instead of pocketing the cash.

Maucea, married and with three children, was on routine patrol outside the mall when he spotted what looked like a bundle of cash on the road.

NESTOR Sulpico

6-7 Super Cabbies Nestor Sulpico and Reio Lance

NESTOR Sulpico was hailed as a modern-day hero after he returned $70,000 (about P3.5 million) worth of black pearls that a passenger had left in a backpack in the cab that he was driving in New York City in July 2004.

The jewels belonged to Lawrence Policastro, a manager of a hedge-fund company, who had just collected them from a jewelry store when he took Sulpico's cab on the night of July 14.

Reio Lance, on the other hand, turned his cab about and drove back to the Manila Domestic Airport in Pasay City to return P150,000 to his passenger in August 2005.

It turned out his worried passenger, Annie Joy Angana, had borrowed the money from a relative to pay for a crucial operation of her daughter, Gwyneth, who has a brain tumor.

8 Super Community Leader Antonio Meloto

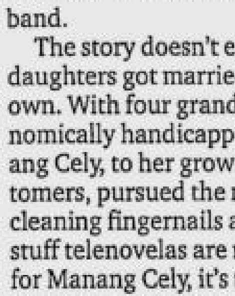
HE was a businessman who looked at his surroundings and realized that people should be able to live in a more dignified manner.

Antonio Meloto made the dream of a decent home a reality for many families through a foundation that helps people help themselves. This year, Meloto received the Asian counterpart of the Nobel Peace Prize. But apart from making owning a decent home possible for many poor Filipinos, the recognition should be for bringing back hope to those who have abandoned the dream of a decent life.

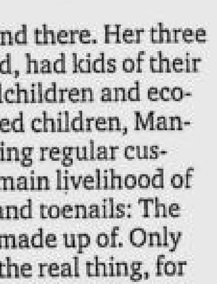
9 Super Lola Cecilia Bautista

SHE is the old woman who has become a semi-permanent fixture at the corner of Bato ext., and Raxa Bago in Tondo, Manila, everyday armed with nipper, pusher and nail-cutter—items for the livelihood with which she feeds her three children after she was abandoned by her husband.

The story doesn't end there. Her three daughters got married, had kids of their own. With four grandchildren and economically handicapped children, Manang Cely, to her growing regular customers, pursued the main livelihood of cleaning fingernails and toenails: The stuff telenovelas are made up of. Only for Manang Cely, it's the real thing, for which she has no regrets and offers no apologies.



BUENAVENTURA



DARWIN CAVARIO

10-11 Super Bikers Jose Buenaventura and Darwin Cavario

JOSE BUENAVENTURA, a pedicab driver from Cavite, found P104,000 in a white plastic bag on a busy street in Barangay Silangan 2, Cavite in August.

The money were in P100, P500 and P1,000 denominations and would have been easy to spend without a trace. But instead it was returned to then-six-months pregnant Carolina Distor, who was frantically searching for the money. She said the money was to be used as down payment for a house that she and her husband were buying. The money fell from a motorcycle that the couple was riding.

Darwin Cavario is a tricycle driver from General Santos City. He found a bag containing checks worth P270,000 and P26,000 in cash in the back seat of his tricycle in January 2005.

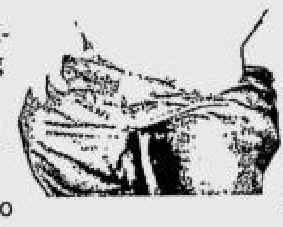
Calvario, a father of four, decided to return the money to its rightful owner though he could have used it for a badly needed operation of his sick son.

Pledges of support came pouring in after news about his heroism broke in the media.

12 Super Jabar Mafel Timonera

AT three feet and 10 inches, Mafel Timonera walks tall at the Manila City Hall.

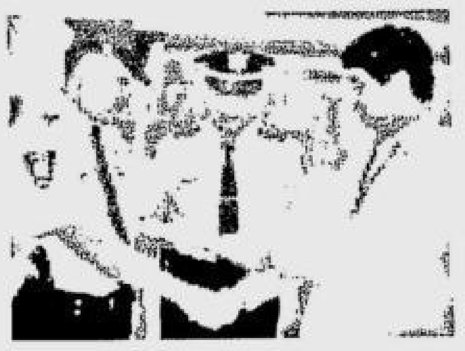
And he has a lot of reasons to do so, because aside from making coffee for the visitors of Mayor Lito Atienza, he also serves as the mayor's messenger, sometimes carrying confidential letters to big shots, clutching in his child-like hands documents vital for the capital.



Small steps are no problem for Timonera, 28, more popularly known as Jabar, after the seven-foot-two-inch American basketball legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. A native of San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan and a resident of Pandacan, Jabar walks briskly and quickly, sometimes eliciting laughter.

He's married to Linda, who is five feet and two inches tall, with whom he has four children.

"*Masuwerte ako sa buhay. Maraming matatangkad na walang silbi* (I'm lucky in life. There are taller people who are worthless)," he said when asked about how he thought life has treated him. No truth could probably be bigger.



13-16 Super Airport Guys Jerry Soriano, Dominic Jimenez, Roland Cabusa and Joel Ricafort

CORPORALS Jerry Soriano and Dominic Jimenez recovered and returned to former Sen. Victor Ziga a black trolley bag at the arrival area of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 2 in June 2002. The bag had P44 million in cash, checks and other valuables.

Roland Cabusa, meanwhile, is a driver of Sunshine Transportation Inc. stationed at the Naia who found a wallet in his cab on Mar. 28.

The wallet contained $1,800 (about P89,388) and 500 Saudi riyal (about P6,600), identification cards and credit cards. The items were later returned to Benhavier Saning, an overseas Filipino worker leaving for Riyadh.

Joel Ricafort, meanwhile, was retrieving used baggage carts from the parking lot of the Naia Terminal 2 in December 2005 when he saw a small brown bag left in one of the carts.

The bag contained 574,000 yen (about P250,000), P5,000, a plane ticket and a Japanese passport under the name of Takashi Yamada, among other things.

Ricafort immediately turned over the bag to his supervisors and also informed the airport police of his discovery.

17 Super Advocate Ed Paez

WHO cares about the forgotten war veterans?

Well, veteran sportswriter and running enthusiast Ed Paez does.

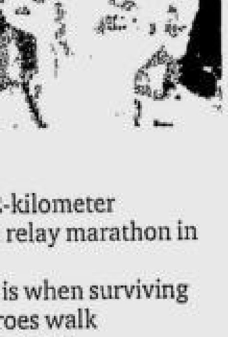
Since 1986, Paez and his runner friends annually retrace the infamous Death March trail in a 102-kilometer non-competitive relay marathon in Bataan.

The highlight is when surviving World War II heroes walk side-by-side with the ultra-marathoners in a 20-meter stroll down memory lane.

This project makes the veterans happy, though most of them are unable to go the full 20 meters.

As Paez puts it, "It will take more than running and walking to truly honor these heroes who fought for our freedom but at least we're taking the steps."

18 Super Ability Roselle Ambubuyog



SHE dreamed of becoming a doctor but was blinded as a child. But that did not stop her from reaching for bigger things.

Roselle Ambubuyog has adapted to a world without sight, and her hard work is paying dividends.

She graduated with the highest honor from the Ateneo de Manila University. Now, she is a consultant for a computer company involved in the manufacture of hardware and software for the blind, making sure the visually challenged will, like her, see through their bright future.

19 Super Singers Cercado sisters

SISTERS Almira, Celena, Mylene and Irene Cercado from Isabela represented the Philippines in the annual World Championships of Performing Arts held at the Hollywood Palladium in the US. They won Overall Best Vocal Group in the junior division and came home this year sans the fanfare usually accorded champions.

Aside from being the Best Vocal Group, they also bagged four gold medals for the Broadway, Gospel, Original Works and Pop/R&B categories.

Because of these, the sisters were

BANDERA'S STORY/J5

awarded "Worldstar Champions," marking the first time that Filipinos landed the award, and making them the youngest recipients of such honor.

Bandera's story...

From page J4

20 Super Lolo E.R. Tagle

MAKATI senior citizen number 2004198, born Apr. 13, 1940, is not just an entry at the database of the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs. The ID number belongs to E.R. Tagle, the positivism painter.

After leaving Selda 2 of the National Bureau of Investigation, Tagle started gathering the children "Along Da Riles" of Pablo Ocampo ext., a stone's throw away from his Makati gallery.

Sitting beside a crate of bond papers and pencils, Tagle set out for a mean and impossible mission: To teach street children how to draw images of their drab surroundings, in the process both teaching them a skill and imbibing in them a better outlook about life.

And thus was born Bakal, or the Batang Kalye Artists group, where true starving artists look at not only a master, but a lolo, as their guide.

21 Super Prodigy Wesley So

RP Whiz Kid and FIDE Master Wesley So is the youngest Filipino chess player to make it to the Olympic team after topping the National Chess Championship Finals. He clinched the last seat for the national team in the 37th World Chess Olympiad held in Turin, Italy, in May with the win.

The 12-year-old earned his first International Master norm during the 8th Dubai Open in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

So accumulated a 2422 rating performance to obtain an IM norm/result.

*Bandera, published daily by the Inquirer Publications Inc., featured all of the Super Pinoys in its 16th anniversary edition on Sept. 11, 2006.

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Sta. Lucia Realty sets itself apart as country's leading golf and country club developer

The business of Sta. Lucia Realty has grown beyond just the mastery of residential developments. It has likewise set itself apart as the country's leading golf and country club developer. Its first tandem development of residential estates together with a golf and country club started with the very successful Royale Tagaytay Golf & Residential Estates in Tagaytay City, which boasts of being the only project of its kind to office night-time golfing, with its entire 9-hole golf course fully lighted.

This was soon followed by its first major world-class golf & country club development, the Orchard Golf & Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite, noted as the host of the most prestigious international golf tournament this country has ever seen, the 1995 Jonnie Walker Championship Tournament, with a roster of participants that included such golf legends as Greg Norman, Nick Faldo, Ernie Ells and Colin Montgomery.

This wave of initial successes brought about Eagle Ridge Golf & Country Club, the first and the largest golf development of its kind in the Philippines. Boasting of 72-hole championship golf courses in one club, it further strengthened its prestige when it commissioned three golf masters, Greg Norman, Nick Faldo, Isao Aoki, plus foremost golf architect Andy Dye to design the courses. It is the only club of its kind to have four clubhouses to cater to the needs of its members, their families and guests.

Not one to rest on its laurels, Sta Lucia Realty proceeded to develop more world-class golf & country clubs around the country which included Alta Vista Golf & Country Club in Cebu; Rancho Palos Verdes Golf & Country Club in Davao City; Caliraya Spring Golf & Country Club in Cavinti, Laguna; and Lakewood in Cabanatuan City. The Summit Point Golf & Country Club in Lipa, Batangas will showcase the "World 18" concept, in which 18 of the world's best holes will be simulated within the said golf course.

With eleven golf courses and seven country clubs finished and operational, Sta. Lucia Realty can proudly claim to have developed the most number of golf courses and country club in the Philippines.

From the country club development, Sta. Lucia Realty has also ventured into other areas of development. Having seen as opportunity to diversify by serving the leisure needs of its communities, it has successfully completed and operated resort and beach clubs such as Vista Mar Beach Resort in Cebu City; Club Morocco Beach Resort in Subic, Zambales; and Acropolis North Water Camp & Country Clubs in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija. Its most recent acquisition is the Southwaters Resort in Lucena, Quezon Province.

Now, owning a Sta. Lucia property is all that and more. Its dynamic marketing arms Royale Homes Marketing Corp., Orchard Property Marketing Corp., Fil-Estate Group of Marketing Companies and Asian Pacific Group of Companies have been serving a long roster of Sta. Lucia's satisfied clients for years and growing.

For further information, please visit www.staluciarealty.com.

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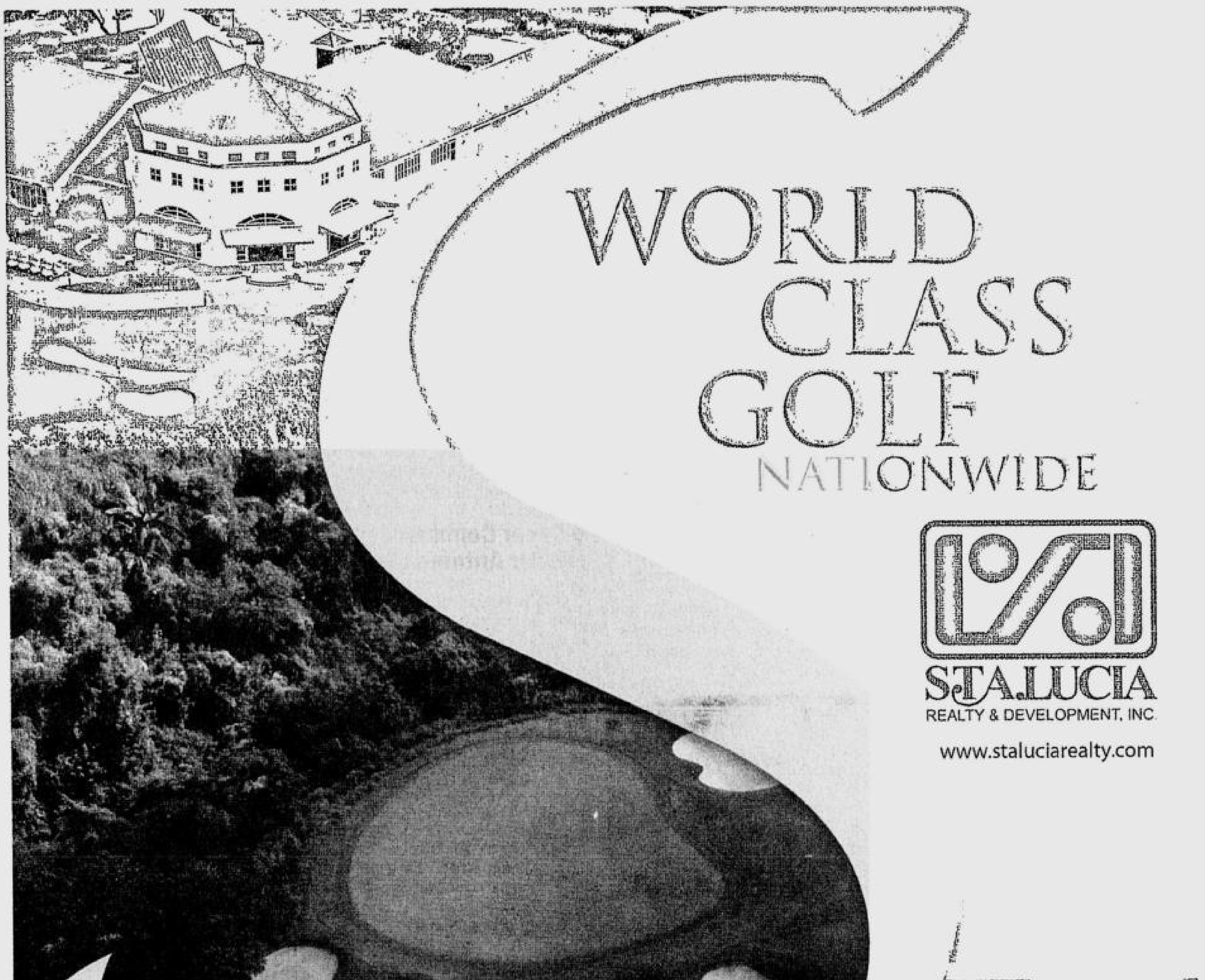
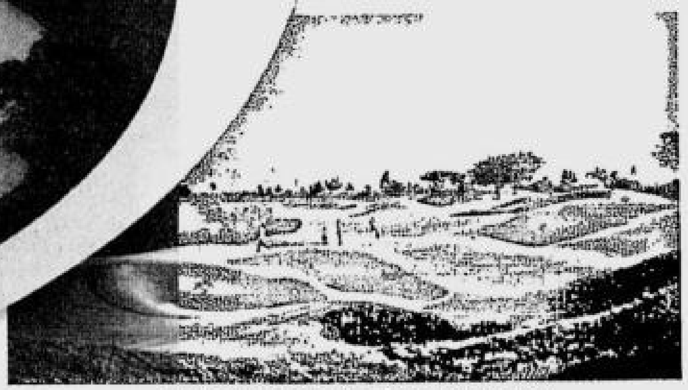
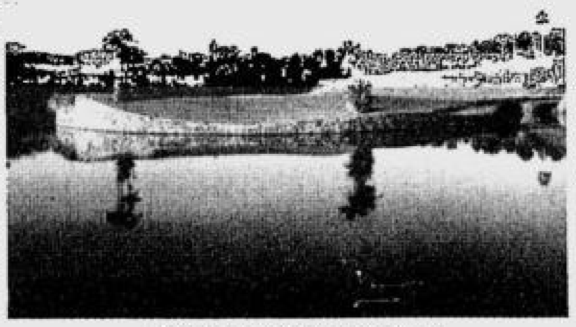



Dye Course, EAGLE RIDGE, Gen. Trias, Cavite

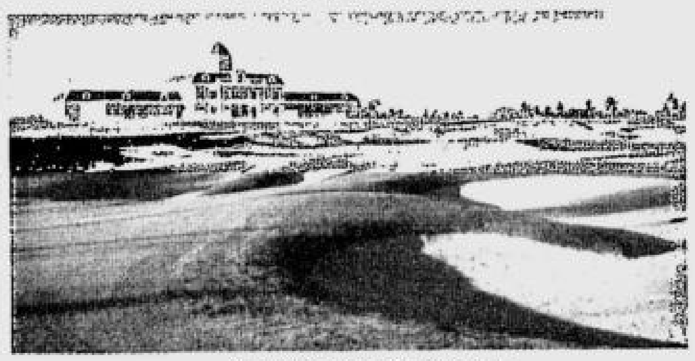
ALTA VISTA, Cebu


RANCHO PALOS VERDES, Davao

Aoki Course, EAGLE RIDGE, Gen. Trias, Cavite

LAKEWOOD, Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija

ROYALE TAGAYTAY, Alfonso, Cavite


SUMMIT POINT, Lipa, Batangas

Player Course, THE ORCHARD, Cavite

Norman Course, EAGLE RIDGE, Gen. Trias, Cavite

CALIRAYA SPRINGS, Cavinti, Laguna

O... NAINTINDIHAN MO NA YUNG PHILIPPINES 2000?
ANO YUN?
YUNG VISION KO
AH, OO...
KELANGAN ANG 2000 NA KANDILA BAWAT BAHAY DAHIL SA BROWN OUTS, DIBA?

@21

What is happening to our country?

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo sits pensively before delivering her "I'm Sorry" speech after the release of the controversial Hello Garci tapes.

JULIUS REYES/PCPO

From page J3

Edsa II introduced in a big way the power of new communication media.

11. Hello, Garci?....So will I still lead by more than 1 million overall?

President Macapagal-Arroyo admitted that it was her voice on the telephone posing the question to Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano as tension mounted during the counting of the May 2004 vote.

It was inappropriate, she said, but denied that she cheated in the elections.

The phone conversation, apparently taped and then leaked by some members of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, threw her administration into its worst crisis, and raised the specter of yet another people power revolt. Another issue was the long suspected practice of illegal wiretapping.

But Ms Arroyo has held on tightly, declaring a state of emergency in response to a reported plan to turn this year's observance of the February 1986 Edsa revolt into a real plot to oust her. An attempted military mutiny was nipped, it was reported. Its leaders jailed. Apparently placate her own political party, she pledged full support for its advocacy for Charter change.

Two bids to impeach her have failed in the House of Representatives dominated by pro-administration legislators.

But the many issues raised in the "Hello Garci" tapes have yet to be fully investigated.

12. Should we dance the Cha-cha?

Former Supreme Court Justice Isagani A. Cruz asked the question in his Sunday column in May 2006 as proponents of Charter change (Cha-cha, for short) were feverishly gathering people's signatures.

"The advocates of Cha-cha are so desperate to push it through by hook or by crook, mostly by crook, that those opposed to it must exert their own honest efforts to defeat it. If we just stand by idly and do nothing while our Constitution is desecrated, we will have only ourselves to blame for not protecting our children's future.

The signature campaign was defeated in the Supreme Court. Supreme Court Justice Artemio Panganiban raised several questions, among them: Are the signatories to the petition the true source of the clamor for the proposed Charter change? Who are the beneficiaries?

13. *Alam ba ni* Mrs. Ito(h)? (Does [the President] know about this?)

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, in a privilege speech in September 2003, charged First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo of stashing hundreds of millions of pesos in secret bank accounts. He preceded every charge he made with the statement: Mr. Jose Pidal, *alam ba ni* Mrs. Itoh? He was referring to Mr. Arroyo's rumored longtime relationship with Vicky Toh.

Arroyo denied the charges.

14. *Ako nanaman*? (Me, again?)

That's First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo on the many charges of corruption and influence peddling stacked by critics against him.

His brother, Rep. Ignacio Arroyo, came to his defense and claimed he was Jose Pidal mid last year at the height of jueteng investigation in the Senate. "It's him again because he's a favorite punching bag of the opposition." It's another destabilization move, he added.

"Mr. Arroyo is not involved and has never been involved in jueteng and totally supports all moves of the government to eradicate jueteng," lawyer Jess Santos told the press last year at the height of the illegal gambling exposé.

In a statement, Santos warned that Arroyo would file charges against anyone who would allude to him and his son as recipients of jueteng money without presenting any evidence."

15. How do you put the genie of military adventurism back in the bottle?

A six-man commission headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Florentino Feliciano was the latest panel to look into this question of military adventurism.

Reviewing the circumstances that led to the 2003 military mutiny played out in Makati's posh Oakwood Hotel in July 2003, the Feliciano Commission concluded it was a well-planned power grab and not a spontaneous protest by disgruntled soldiers. Its roots were traced to the politicization of the military "amid erosion of civilian political institutions," which began when the dictator Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in 1972. The mutineers, they noted, expressed two major grievances—the need to control corruption and the need to modernize the Armed Forces.

They also noted the alienation of the young officers from their senior officers, some of which were implicated in election cheating.

Among their recommendations: Institute anticorruption safeguards, modernize the AFP, foster better internal communication and appoint a civilian secretary of the Department of National Defense, as earlier recommended by the Davide Commission, the body that looked into the 1989 coup attempt against the Aquino administration.

How far has government gone in instituting these reforms?

16. Can the Philippines be globally competitive?

The question is repeatedly posed by trade executives. Business leaders, citing poor infrastructure, high power and labor costs, corruption, inefficiency and "capricious judicial intervention" in economic policy seem nervous.

In the World Bank's recently published annual "Doing Business" survey, world businessmen said it is actually easier to do business in war-wracked Lebanon than the Philippines. Ranking 175 countries in terms of how the regulatory and legal environment in these countries encourage investors and business, the country fell from 121st place in 2005 to 126th place in 2006, lagging behind Lebanon (86), Bosnia and Herzegovina (95), Vietnam (105) and Iran (120).

Surveying how the country's regulations protect investors, the Philippines is ranked 151st—much worse than its overall ranking, which suggests that shareholders have better rights-protection in countries such as Timor-Leste, Belarus and Uzbekistan.

The Philippines did receive a better rating in terms of the ease of paying taxes, ranking 106th. But by this measure, it is still easier to pay taxes in the African nations of Zimbabwe, Eritrea and Nigeria than it is in the Philippines.

The Philippines is in the middle of the pack or even in the upper-third of countries when it comes to enforcing contracts, trading across borders and registering property. At 59th, the country ranked higher than Taiwan, Malaysia and Mexico but lower than Thailand and South Korea, which are ranked 44th and 17th respectively.

REBELLIOUS soldiers air their side during a press conference inside Oakwood Hotel, Makati in 2003.

ERIK ARAZAS

By the World Bank's measure of Purchasing-power Parity GDP, the Philippines is actually the world's 24th largest economy. It is also the world's 4th largest exporter of IT-enabled services behind India, Canada and Ireland.

What do these survey results say about our competitiveness? Evelyn Singson, president of the Management Association of the Philippines, presented the new findings during the 5th MAP International CEO Conference on Oct. 11, 2006, and posed even more questions: What has been done in our recent history that has given rise to the perception of outsiders that business conditions in our archipelago are so dismal? More importantly, what can we do to avert this trend—to send the world the signal that "the Philippines is here and, yes, we are open for business?"

17. Why should Filipinos pay for a mothballed nuclear plant and other onerous debts?

The Freedom from Debt Coalition raised this question again and again in formal conferences as well as street demonstrations, urging repudiation of onerous debts.

Herminio Disini, who negotiated the contract, was a Marcos bagman who was believed to have received $17 million in bribes in the nuclear plant deal.

A generation of Filipinos paid out P120 billion for principal and interest since 1986 for the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) that has never produced a single spark of electricity. Over P2.5 billion in the 2007 budget represented the last of the BNPP debt payments.

Built by Westinghouse, safety issues and corruption charges bloated the initial $600 million bid to $2.4 billion by the time it was stopped in 1984. Still, post-Edsa governments all decided to stand by the debt commitments of the Marcos regime, fearing future reprisals from the international banking community.

Former Sen. Rene Saguisag, who headed the presidential commission on the BNPP, noted that Disini had yet to face the music more than three decades after "fixing" the contract and with just one year left before the BNPP is fully paid for. "Why doesn't government run after those responsible for such debts?" said Saguisag.

18. Can we automate the polls and have more honest elections?

Sen. Richard Gordon answers his own question in the affirmative, at least partially in some areas next year.

But Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos says he will not have enough time.

Former Comelec Chair Christian Monsod, on the other hand, believes the starting point is the broader issue of reform. Where do we want to go? he asks in a speech before Catholic educators late last year. Let's start with electoral reform. The crisis, he said, is rooted in a flawed electoral system that is so tantalizingly vulnerable to manipulation. Unfortunately, he added, every president after Cory Aquino weakened rather than strengthened the electoral process by the quality of their appointments and by the use of institutions, including the military and the police, and of government resources.

19. No more push-ups for mutineers?

Former president pondered the question then defended his easy amnesty for antigovernment rebels in past years.

In the 1980s, Ramos, first as Armed Forces chief of staff and later as defense secretary, foiled nine military rebellions against then President Aquino that left hundreds dead. In 1995, three years after he was elected President, Ramos signed a peace settlement with military rebels that granted them blanket amnesty.

Ramos defended his decision to grant amnesty to the rebel soldiers during his administration as "the best course of action at that time to maintain the operability of the military chain of command and to pursue political stability."

Ramos said that while he could have opted to prosecute the leaders of the nine coup attempts under the Aquino administration, he gave priority to peace and unity to restore political stability and facilitate the implementation of structural reforms.

He said prosecution was among the options Aquino considered against the coup leaders then, but the government decided the need to establish peace and unity was more important as it opened parallel peace talks with communist insurgents as well as Moro separatist rebels.

"By moving the insurgency, the military rebellion and even the secessionist movement from the arena of armed struggle to the negotiating table, we were able to implement our social reform agenda that was centered on economic empowerment," Ramos said.

There are no rigid rules on the path to peace.

20.Are overseas Filipino workers propping up the economy?

DOLE's Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics Director Creselda Sy answers her question in the affirmative.

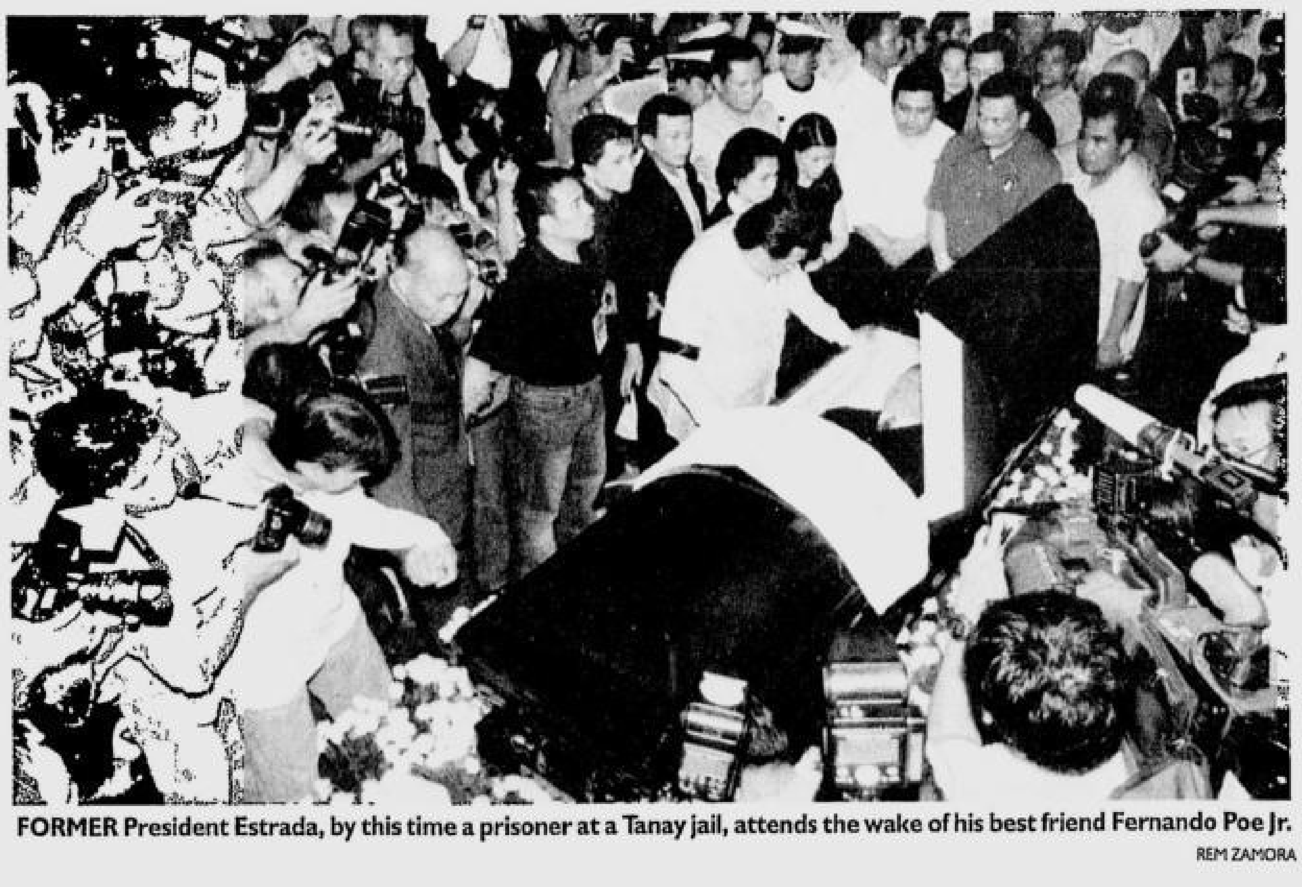
Is this a case of poor domestics and laborers propping up the rich at home? Officials don't want to put it that way but confirmed that from 1999 to 2004, as the country reeled from the Asian financial crisis and political turmoil that included the ouster of President Joseph Estrada, the country benefited from some P2.4 billion in remittances—eight times more than the foreign exchange earnings from foreign direct investments the same period.

"It is interesting to note that the gains from overseas employment mattered most during years when the gross domestic product (GDP) were at their lowest," Sy said.

21. This country is hopeless ...Agree? Disagree?

The complete question posed by Pulse Asia in 2002 was: There is no hope for this country. If possible, I would migrate to another country. Agree? Disagree?

The good news is that the majority or at least 60 percent, despite all the provocative hovering questions, disagreed with the statement. Twenty percent were undecided. *With Leah Makabenta, Juan Sarmiento Jr., Fe Zamora, Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Inquirer Research*



FORMER President Estrada, by this time a prisoner at a Tanay jail, attends the wake of his best friend Fernando Poe Jr.

REM ZAMORA

ANAK BA KITA TALAGA?
PAPA BA KITA TALAGA?
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2 We've a fantastic partner called The Philippine Daily Inquirer.

3 Our staff is composed of young guns who don't know what impossible means.

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8 We try our very best to do the right thing and correct our mistakes—always.

9 Our food in the office pantry are all low-fat, less salt and sugar free. Hey, health is wealth.

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13 PC Magazine Philippines. The most widely read tech publication in the country, according to the Synovate survey. Also the most respected in the world.

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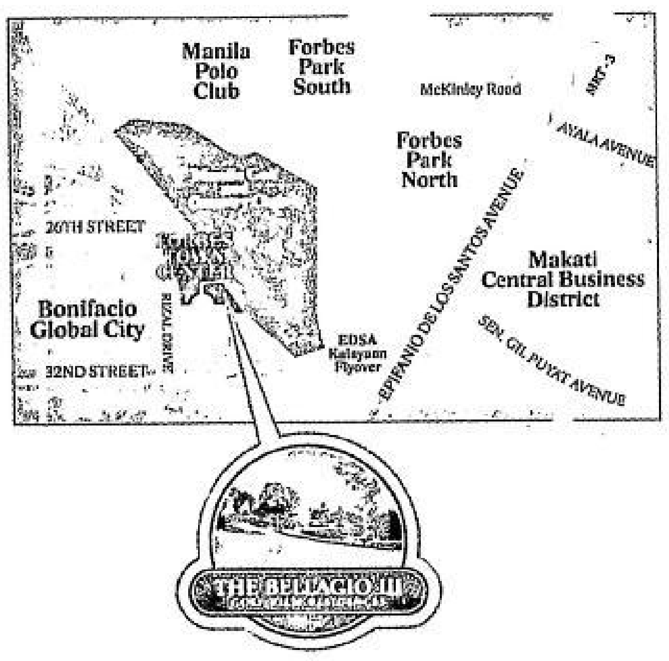
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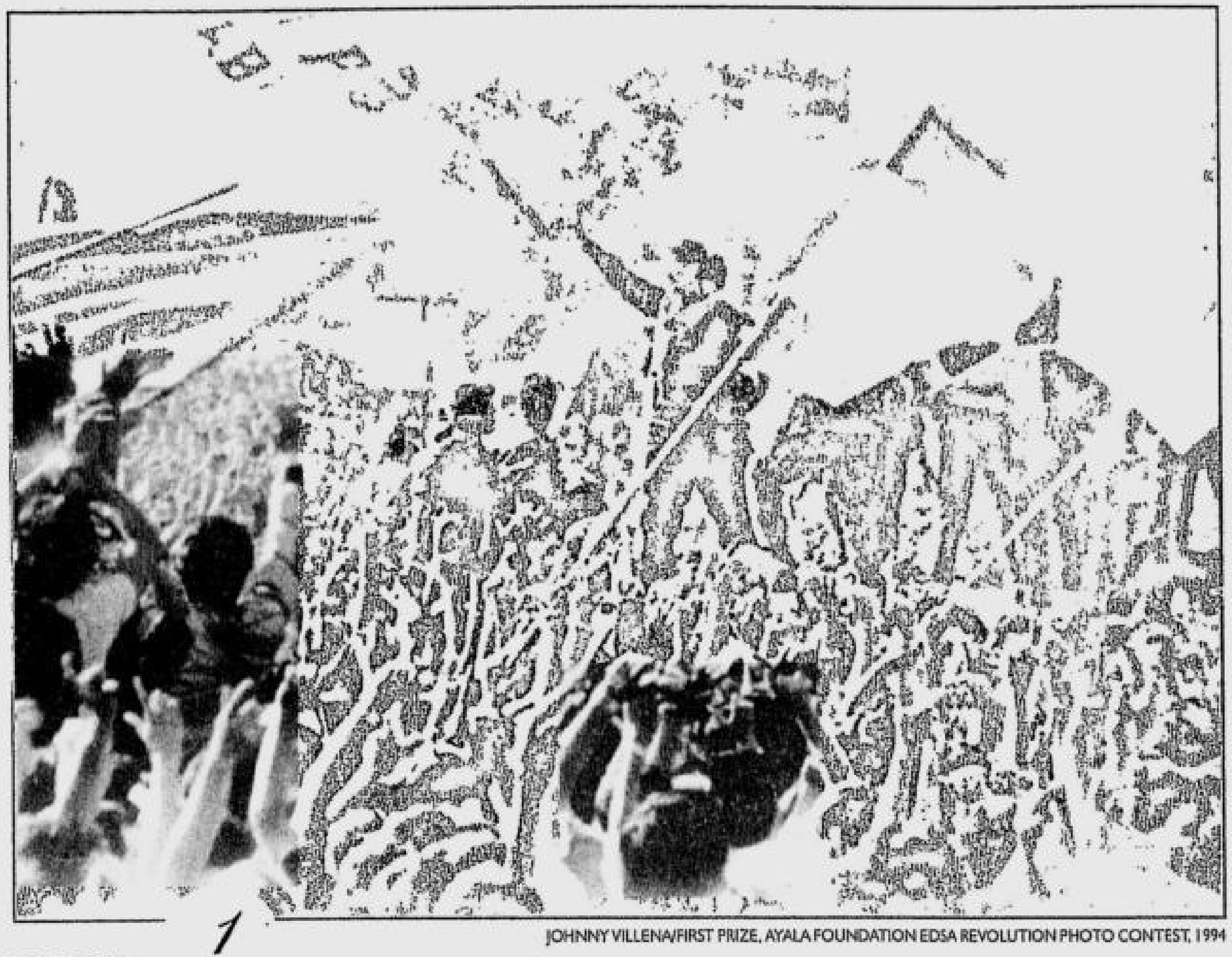
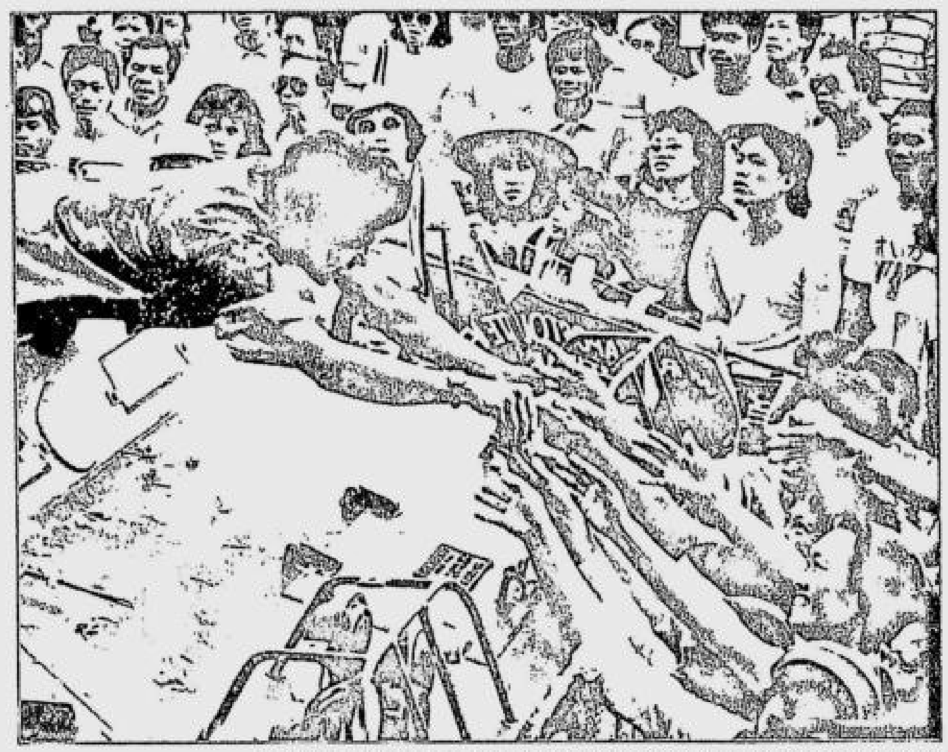


JOHNNY VILLENA/FIRST PRIZE, AYALA FOUNDATION EDSA REVOLUTION PHOTO CONTEST, 1994

1

PEOPLE POWER RULES
Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile celebrates people power in February 1986 at Edsa in front of Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. (Published Feb. 23, 1986)



2

THANK YOU!
A soldier on board a V-150 APC gets enthusiastic support from joyous multitudes in the first peaceful (and successful) demonstration of people power in the world, at Edsa. (Published Feb. 23, 1986)

BOY CABRIDO/SECOND PRIZE, AYALA FOUNDATION EDSA REVOLUTION PHOTO CONTEST, 1994

It's all over; Marcos flees!

3

WE DID IT
Receiving word about the success of the "bloodless revolt" on Edsa in February 1986, people rushed to Malacañang, forced the gates open, ran off with prized souvenirs and waved copies of the INQUIRER that carried a banner story that said it all. (Published Feb. 27, 1986)

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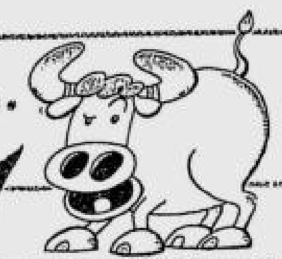
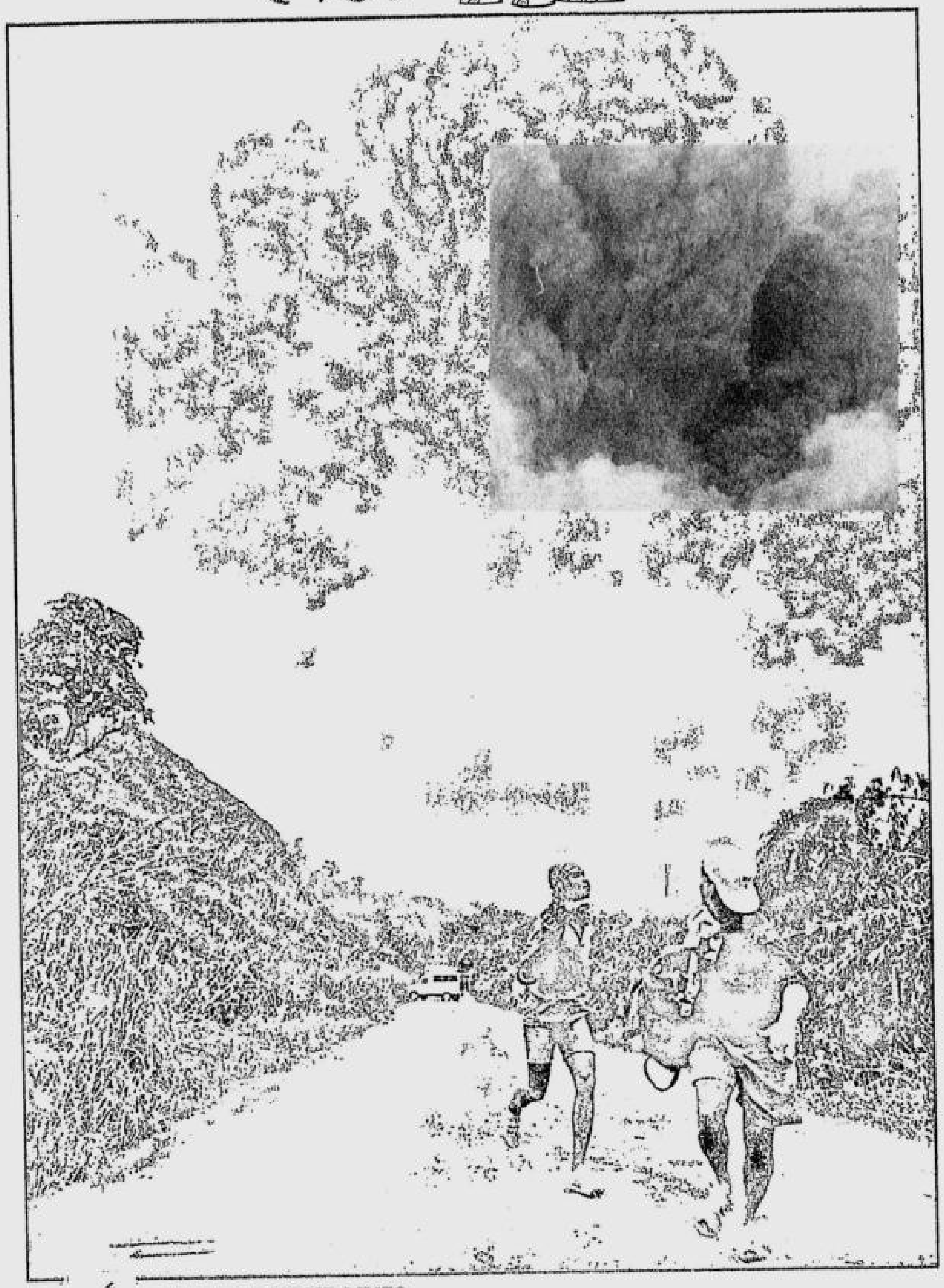
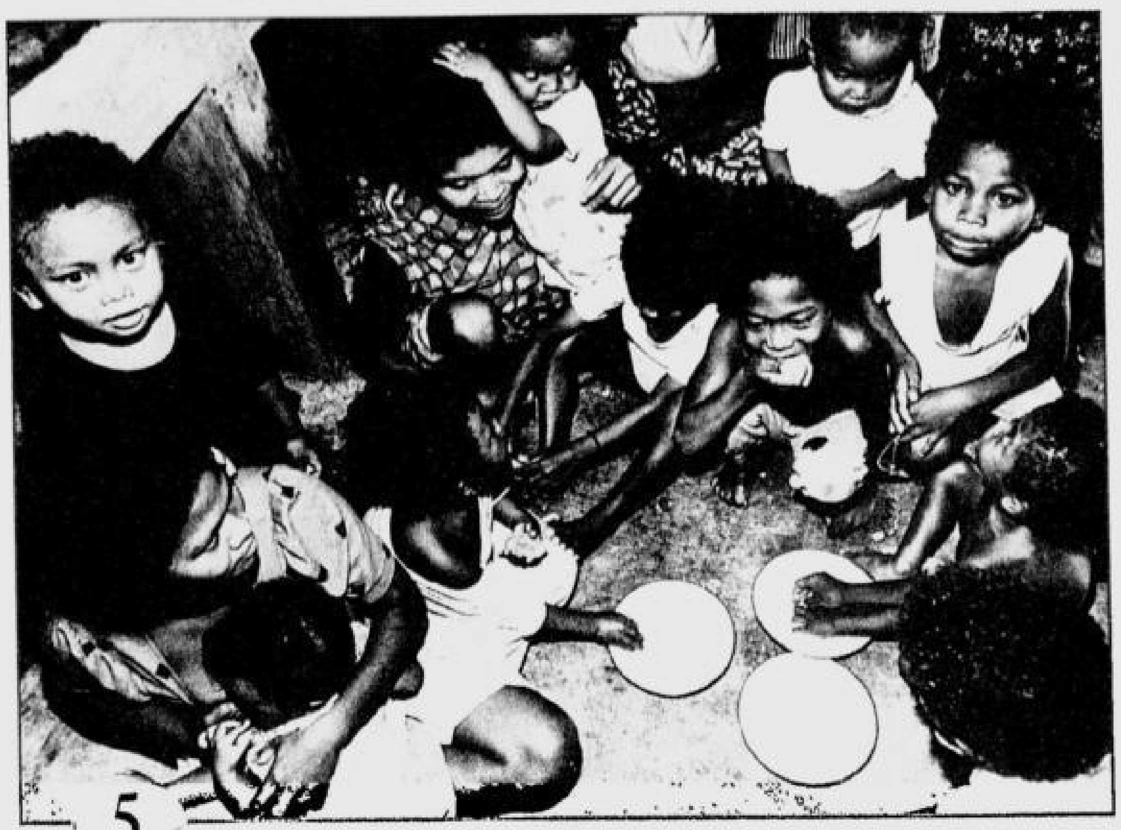




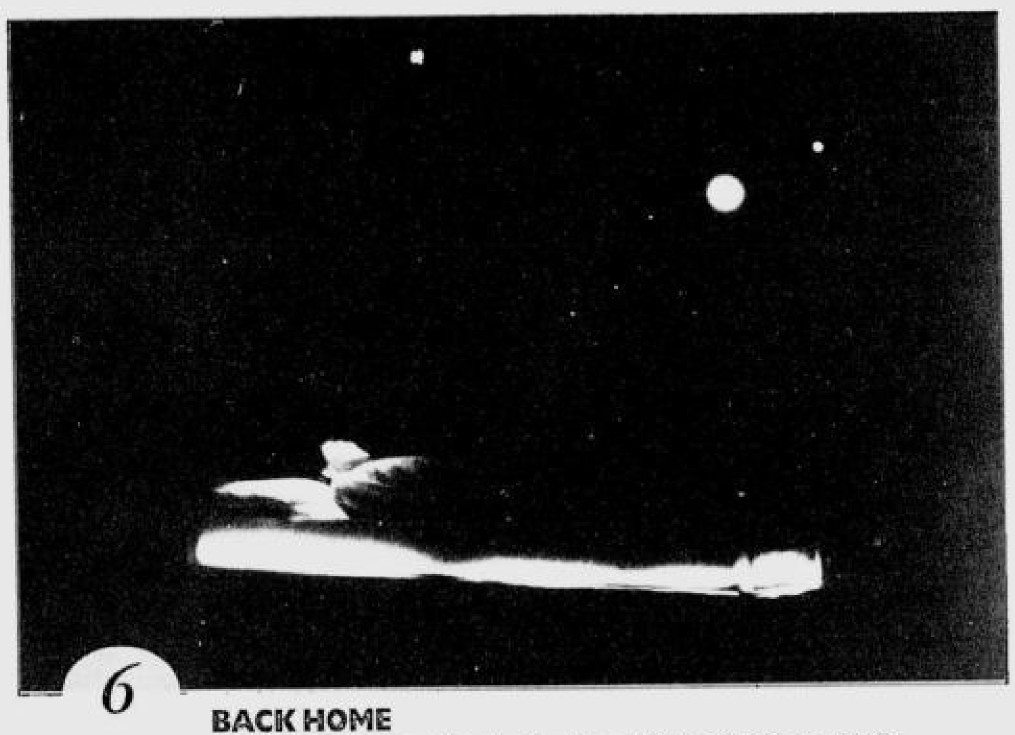
4 **RUN FOR YOUR LIVES**
News photographers covering the Mt. Pinatubo eruption in June 1991 flee the town of San Marcelino, Zambales, to escape the volcano's wrath. More than 1,500 people died in mudslides and floods that followed June's big blast. (Published June 16, 1991)

BOY CABRIDO, SECOND PLACE, PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES PHOTO CONTEST, 1991



5 **GIVE US THIS DAY**
A family of Aetas shares plates of rice at an evacuation center for Mt. Pinatubo victims. (Published Aug. 16, 1992)

BOY CABRIDO/ CMMA NEWS PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR, 1992



6 **BACK HOME**
The body of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos inside the family mausoleum in Batac, Ilocos Norte. (Published Sept. 12, 1993)

BOY CABRIDO/FIRST PRIZE, PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES PHOTO CONTEST, 1994

Why can't I come home?

- Ninoy Aquino

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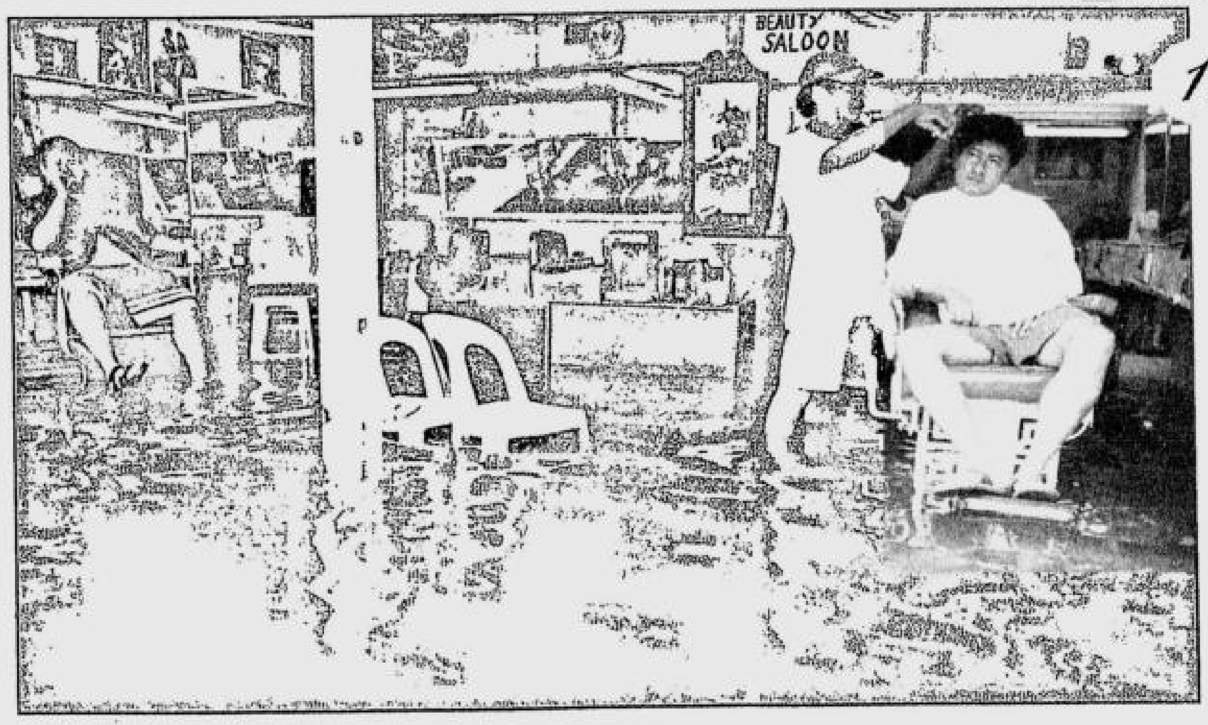
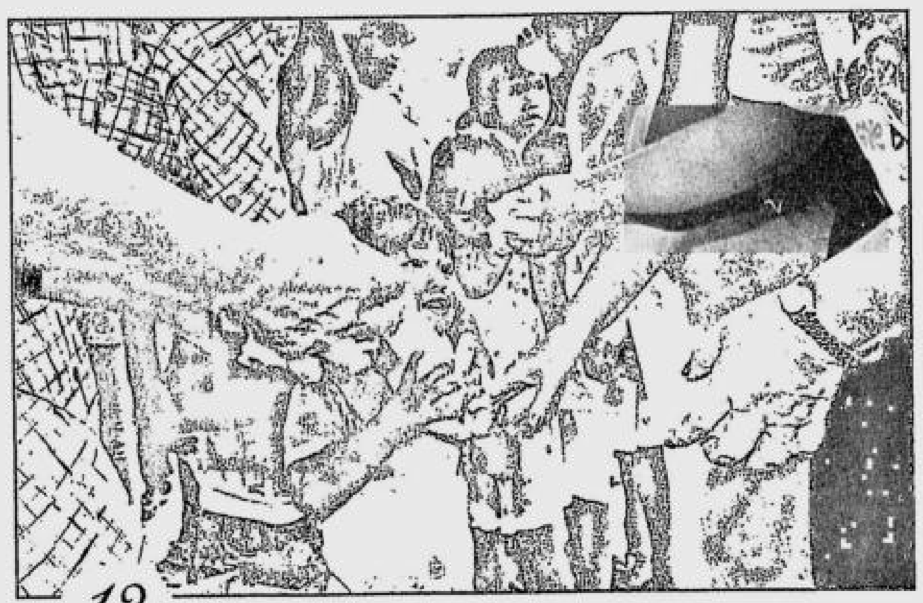
7

REDS WED
New People's Army spokesperson Gregorio Rosal officiates at a revolutionary wedding somewhere in Southern Luzon. (Published Dec. 29, 1992)
DEMETRIO ORPIADA



11

BUSINESS AS USUAL
A barber goes about his job deep in flood waters brought by incessant monsoon rains in Agusan del Sur. (Published July 28, 1999)
EDWIN BACASMAS/ CMMA AWARD FOR BEST NEWS PHOTOGRAPH, HUMAN INTEREST CATEGORY, 2000

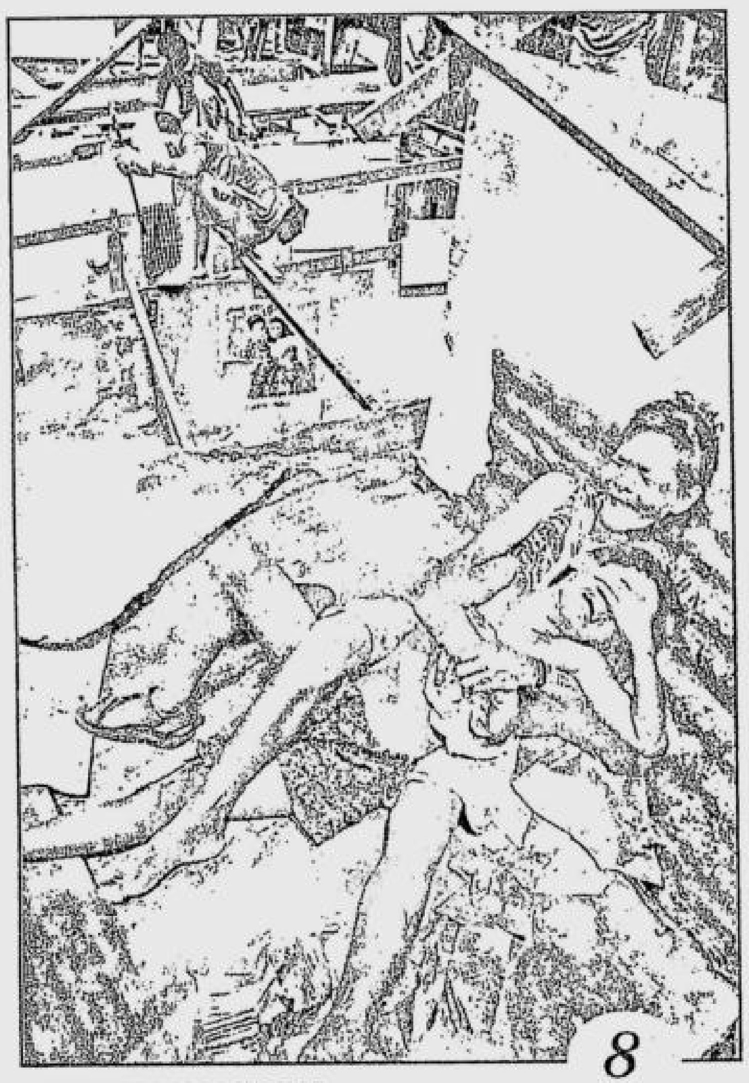


12

BISCUITS FOR DINNER
Children at the Mt. Pinatubo evacuation center in Cabangan, Zambales, receive biscuit donations from civic organizations. (Published Aug. 26, 1992)
BOY CABRIDO/CMMA BEST NEWS PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR AWARD, 1994

13

TRUE GRIT
Former Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan after chemotherapy session. Fernan had lung cancer and died on July 11, 1999. (Published March 6, 1999)
EDWIN BACASMAS/FIRST PRIZE, PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES PHOTO CONTEST, 2000



8

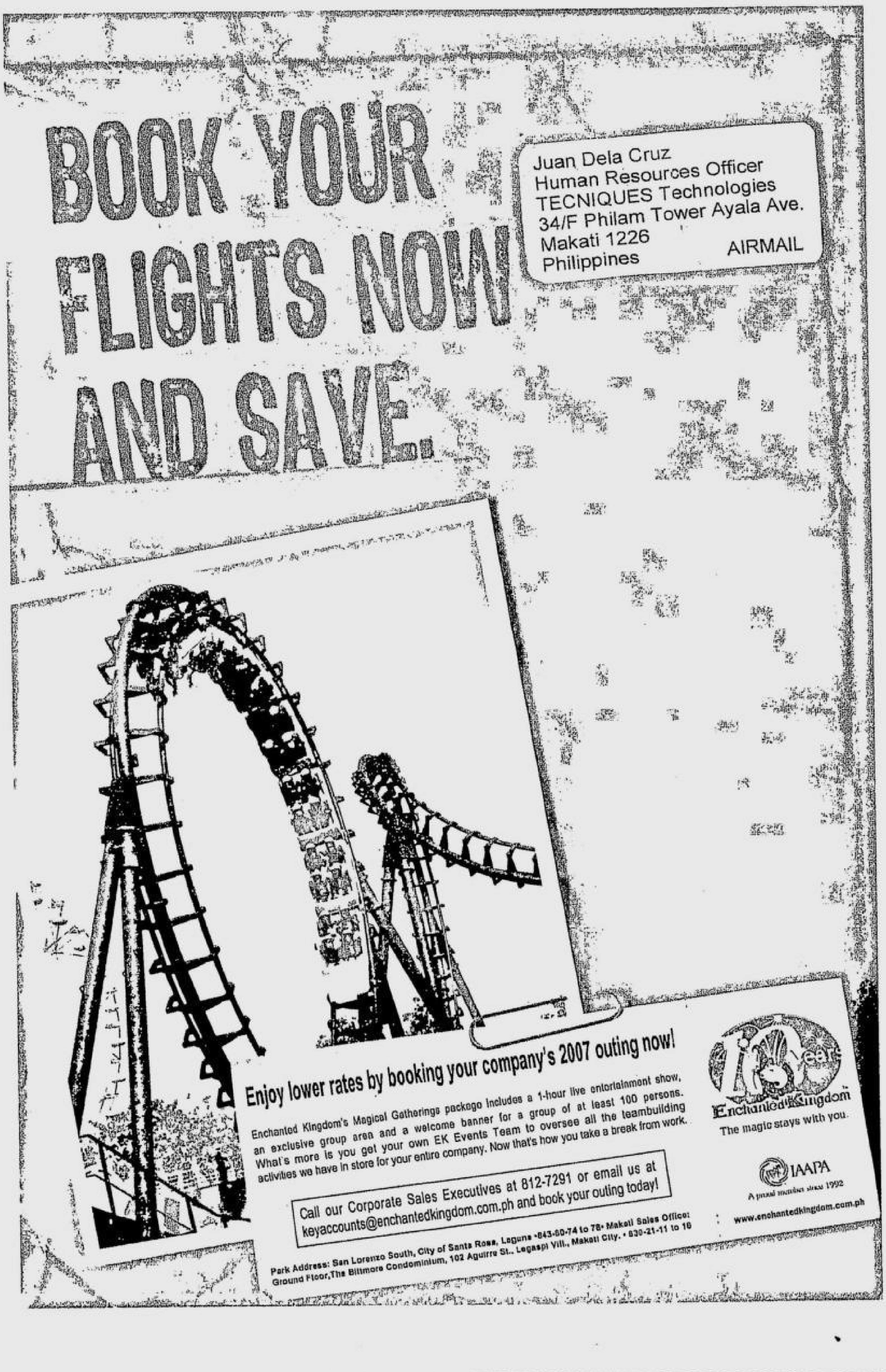
HELPLESS HOMELESS
A tearful grandmother and her grandson are helpless as a demolition crew dismantles their house in a Paco squatters' community.
ERIK ARAZAS/FIRST PRIZE, NEWS CATEGORY, PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES PHOTO CONTEST, 1997

9

EASY DOES IT
Sean Guevarra clears the bar in the high jump event to win a silver at 21st SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur. (Published Sept. 16, 2001)
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO/SPORTS PHOTO OF THE YEAR, SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, 2001

10

A WALK IN THE SUNSET
President Macapagal-Arroyo and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo walk on the sands of Tubbataha Reef in Palawan after an afternoon of snorkeling. (Published April 28, 2002)
EDWIN BACASMAS/GRAND PRIZE WINNER, SOCIETY OF PUBLISHERS IN ASIA (SOPA-HONGKONG)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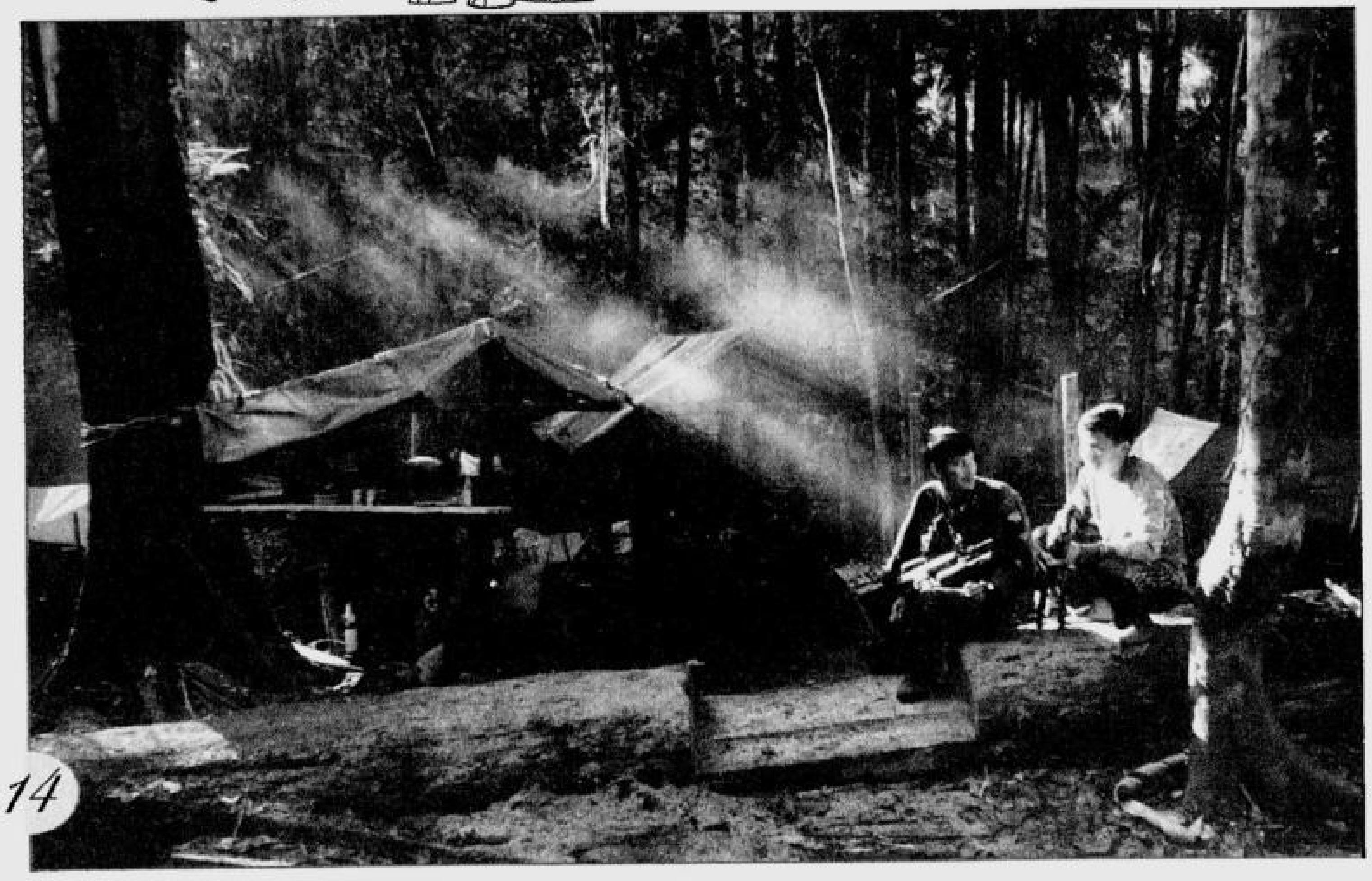
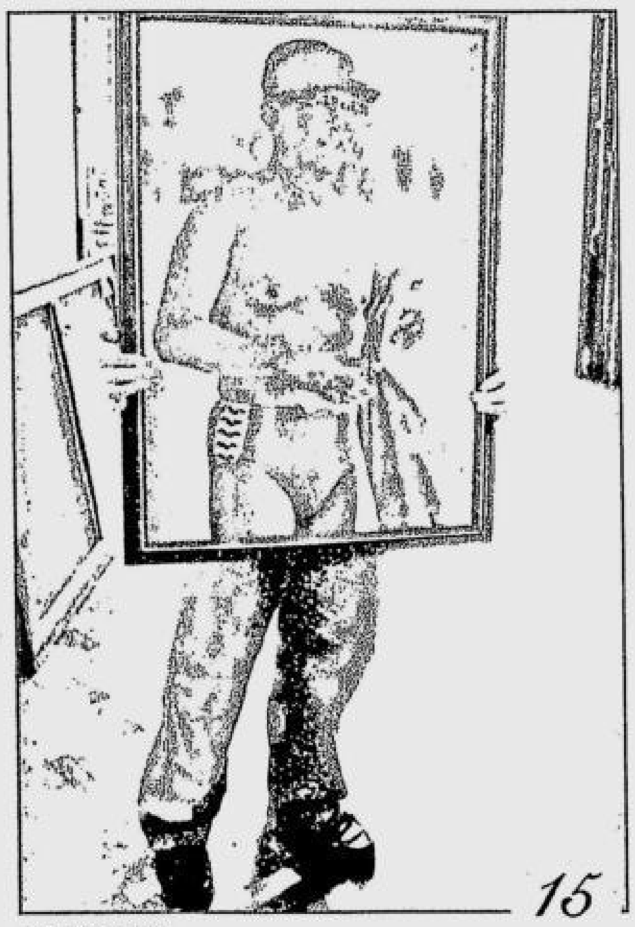


14

NOT BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S
Soldiers take a respite from fighting the Abu Sayyaf to cook breakfast in a temporary camp inside the jungles of Basilan. (Published Jan. 14, 2002)

DENNIS SABANGAN/PHOTO OF THE YEAR, AFP LENTE PHOTO CONTEST, 2005



15

FRAME UP
A Malacañang employee making an inventory of Palace property looks for storage space for this framed photograph of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. (Published Sept. 2003)

EDWIN BACASMAS/WINNER, EXCELLENCE IN NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORY, SOCIETY OF PUBLISHERS IN ASIA, 2004

16

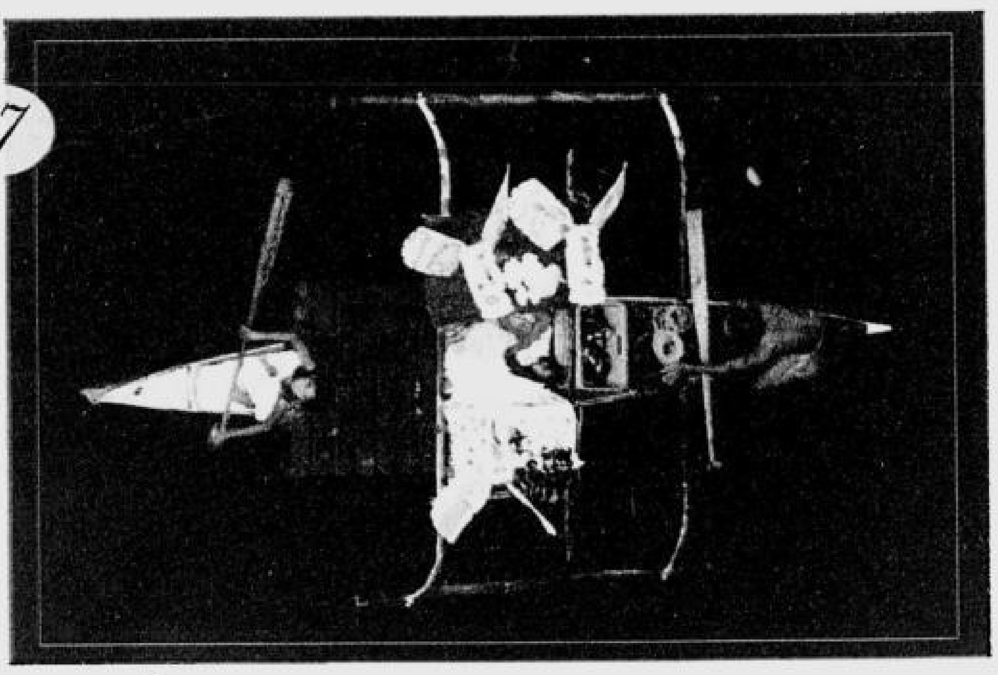
NOWHERE LAND
A river ran through this desolate desert once, now a laharscape with no signposts for a family making the long trek homeward from a Zambales evacuation center. (Published Sept. 8, 2001)

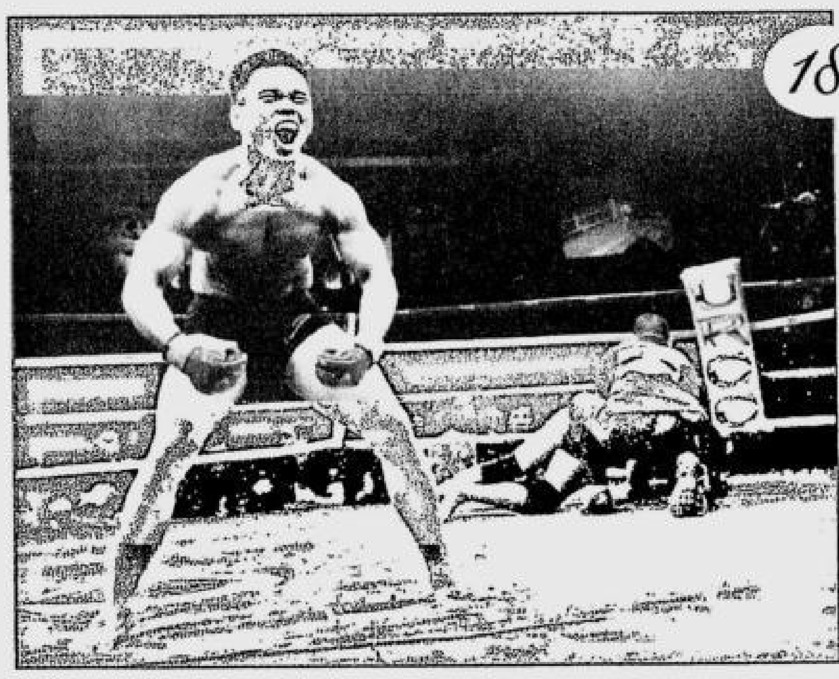
EDWIN BACASMAS/WINNER, CMMA AWARD FOR BEST NEWS PHOTOGRAPH, 2002

17

MOONLIGHTERS
A Badjao family sells sea shells and trinkets to tourists late into the night near a Zamboanga City port. (Published Oct. 1, 2004)

EDWIN BACASMAS/WINNER, CMMA AWARD FOR BEST NEWS PHOTOGRAPH, 2005

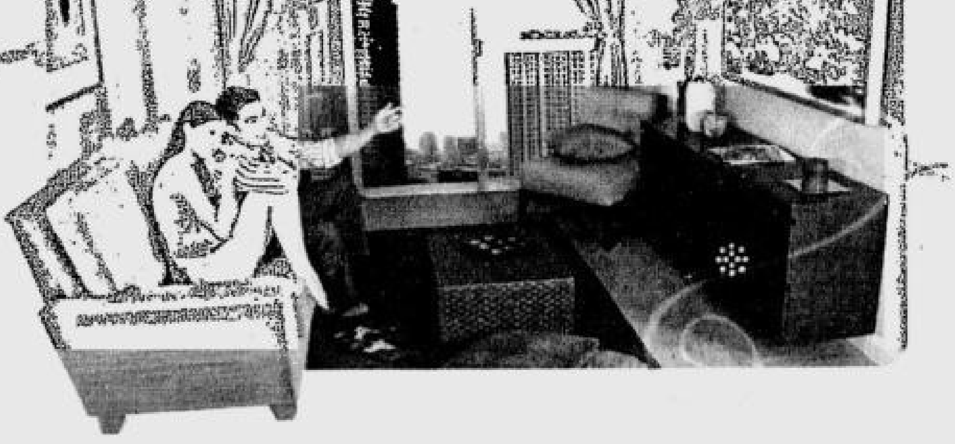




18

RARING FOR MORE
Luisito II Sangalang is still in a fighting mood even after knocking out Glenn "Guillotine" Evangelista for the URCC featherweight title. (Published Oct. 25, 2004)

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO/FIRST PRIZE, "BEYOND FEAR" PHOTO CONTEST, 2004



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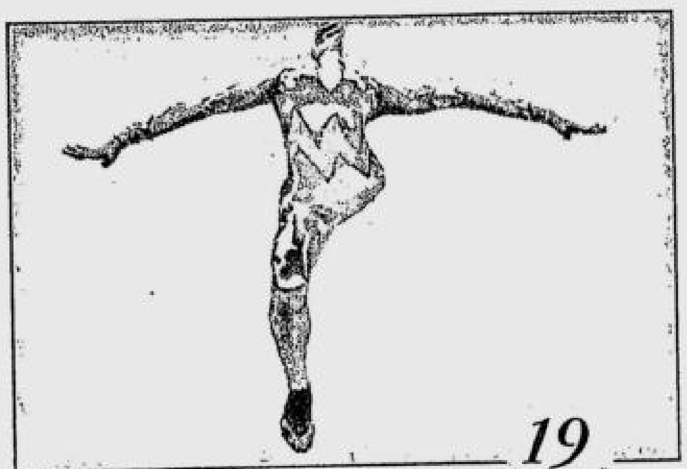
Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 4659 Series of 2006



SHE'S GOT RHYTHM
Danica Calapatan got a bronze during the 2005 Rhythmic Gymnastics event at Rizal Stadium. (Published Dec. 5, 2005)
LYN RILLON/ GRAND PRIZE, GINTONG MEDALYA 23RD SEA GAMES, 2005

PEACE, MAN
Children give peace sign to US soldiers in rescue operations for Leyte mudslide victims. (Published Feb. 24, 2006)
REM ZAMORA/GRAND PRIZE WINNER, GENERAL NEWS, ASIA NEWS NETWORK, 2006; BEST NEWS PHOTOGRAPH, CMMA, 2006

SWEPT AWAY
Pedro Malate carries his son after surveying damage to his home swept away by mudflow from Mt. Mayon. (Published Dec. 3, 2006)
EDWIN BACASMAS

Suzuki APV

3-MENDOUS OFFER!

PROMO EXTENDED: November 1 to December 31, 2006.
Approved by DTI-NCR

APV GLX PACKAGES

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- ☐ FREE SHELL Gas Card worth P10,000.
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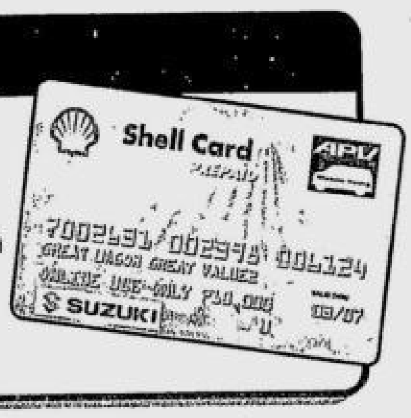

Gas cards are valid for one (1) year from date issued.

SRP	* Down Payment	12	18	24	36	48	60	72
765,000	99,000	56,193	38,506	29,861	21,251	17,024	14,834	13,481

* Only applicable for GLX AT.

2 YEARS FREE SERVICE 20,000 kms. whichever comes first
3 YEARS WARRANTY 100,000

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4006 Series of 2006

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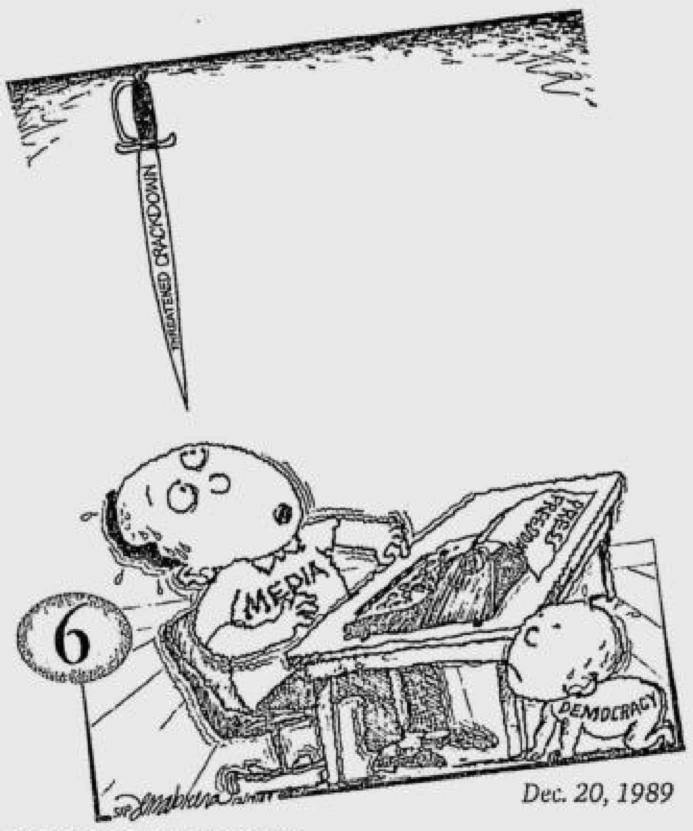
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4659 Series of 2006

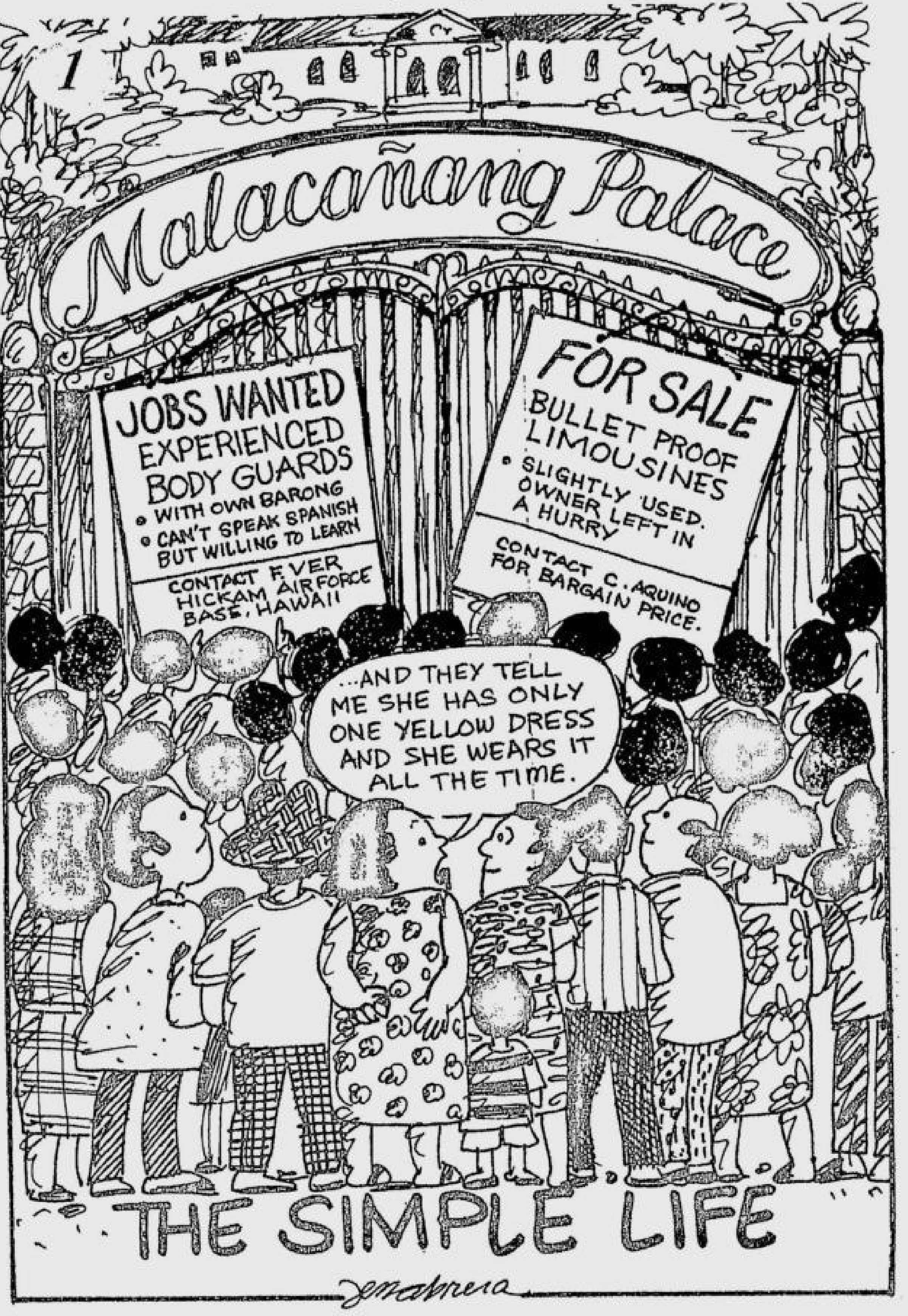
Everything old is new(s) again

WE GET A SENSE that everything old is new(s) again just by scanning through the editorial cartoons of **JESS ABRERA** the past 21 years. In that time, we've had four presidents (or five, if we count Marcos's last year in office before his ouster in 1986). But through every single one's tenure the same issues hounded the country and gripped the national consciousness even as they continue to do so to this very day. We are a people who have yet to discover what a difference a day makes.

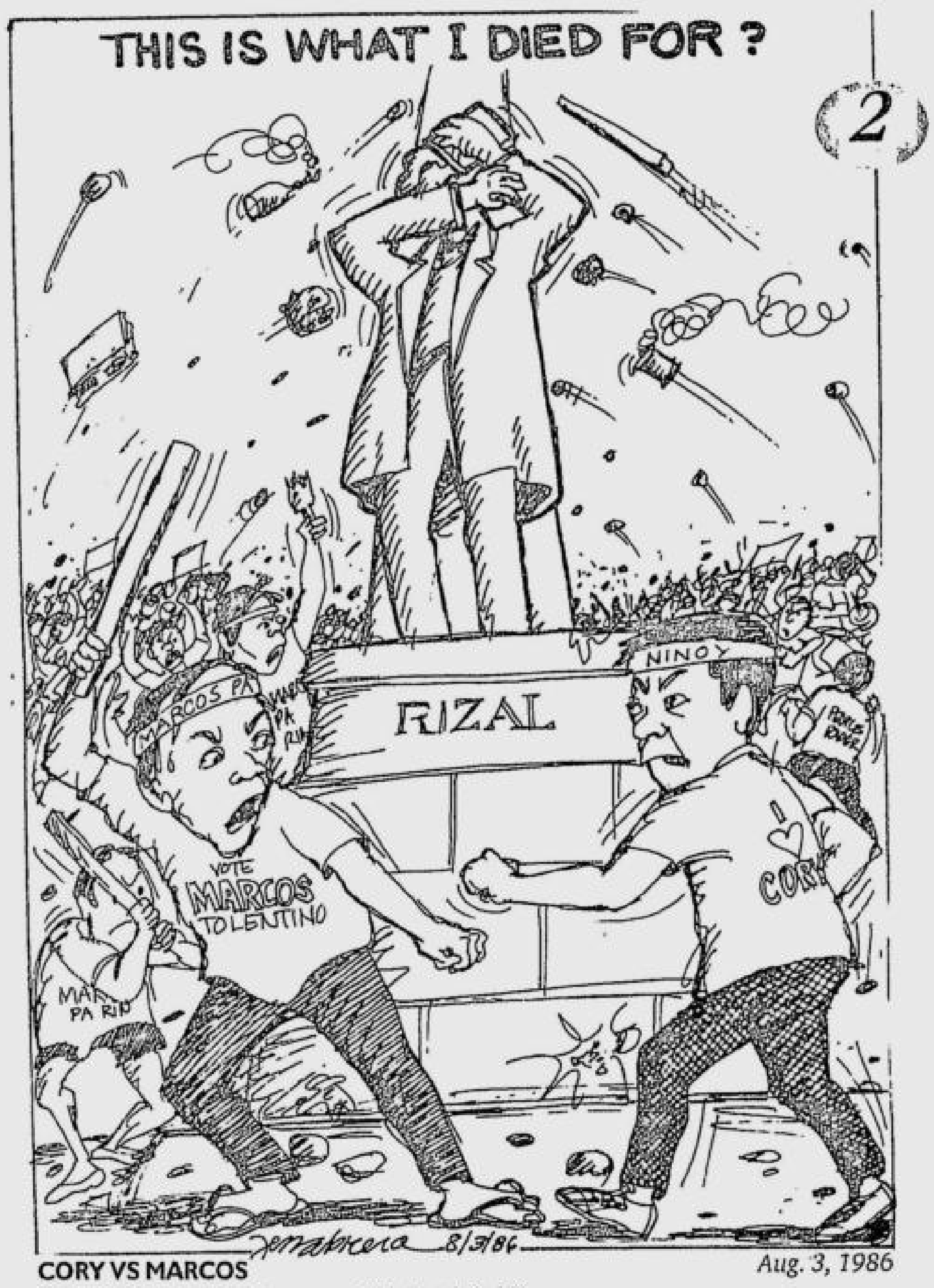

6
THREATENED CRACKDOWN
MEDIA
FREE PRESS
DEMOCRACY

Dec. 20, 1989

CRACKDOWN ON MEDIA
(So what else is new?)

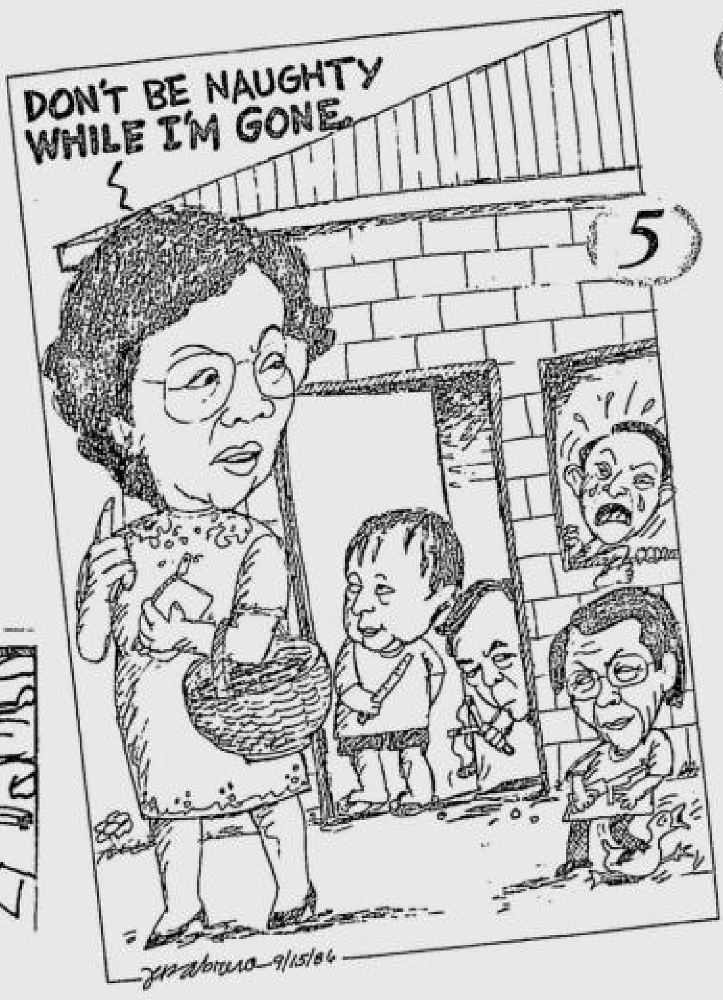

1
Malacañang Palace
JOBS WANTED
EXPERIENCED BODY GUARDS
• WITH OWN BARONG
• CAN'T SPEAK SPANISH BUT WILLING TO LEARN
CONTACT F. VER HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, HAWAII
FOR SALE
BULLET PROOF LIMOUSINES
• SLIGHTLY USED. OWNER LEFT IN A HURRY
CONTACT C. AQUINO FOR BARGAIN PRICE.
...AND THEY TELL ME SHE HAS ONLY ONE YELLOW DRESS AND SHE WEARS IT ALL THE TIME.
THE SIMPLE LIFE
jessabrera

THE SIMPLE LIFE
(Only day 1 after Edsa I)
March 24, 1986

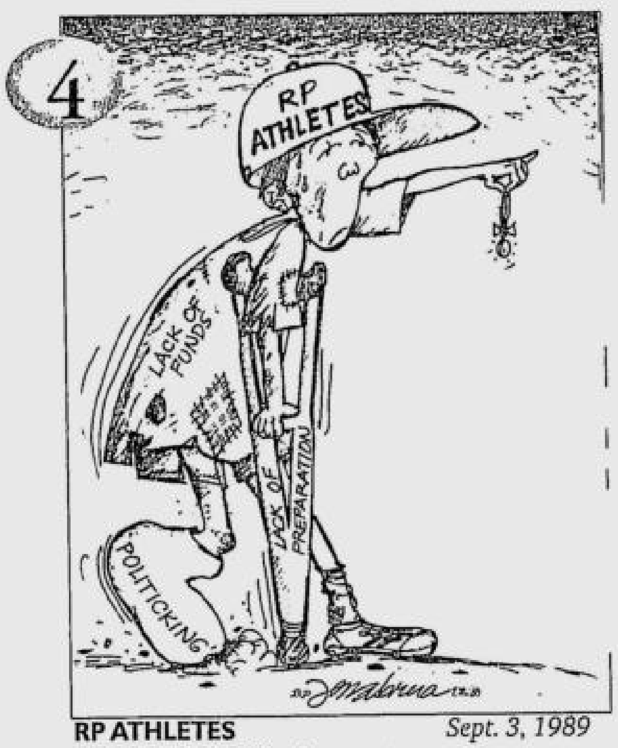

THIS IS WHAT I DIED FOR ?
2
RIZAL
MARCOS PA
MARCOS PA RIN
NINOY
VOTE MARCOS TOLENTINO
I ♡ CORY
jessabrera 8/3/86

Aug. 3, 1986

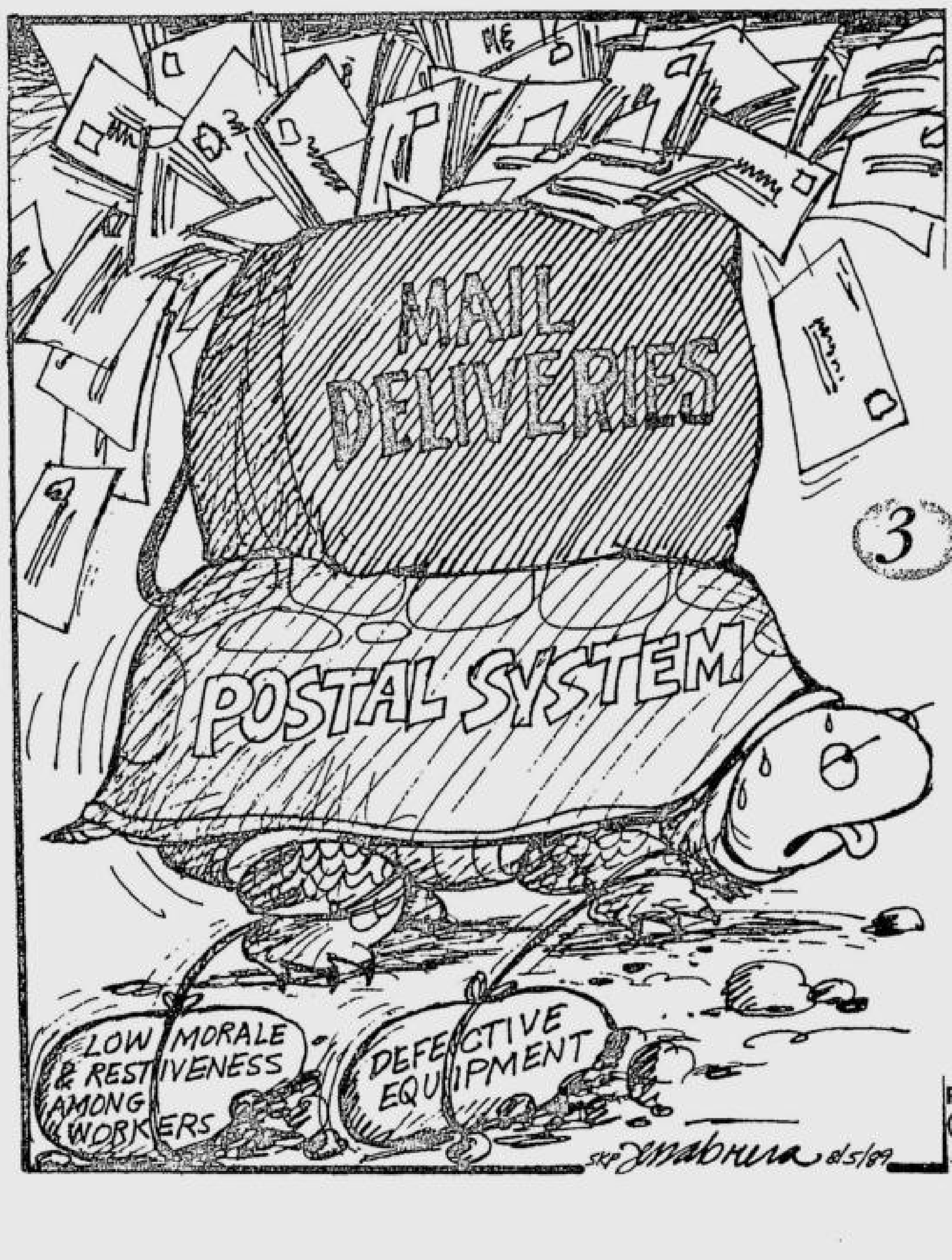
CORY VS MARCOS
(True believers, combatants still in battlefield)


DON'T BE NAUGHTY WHILE I'M GONE.
5
jessabrera 9/15/86

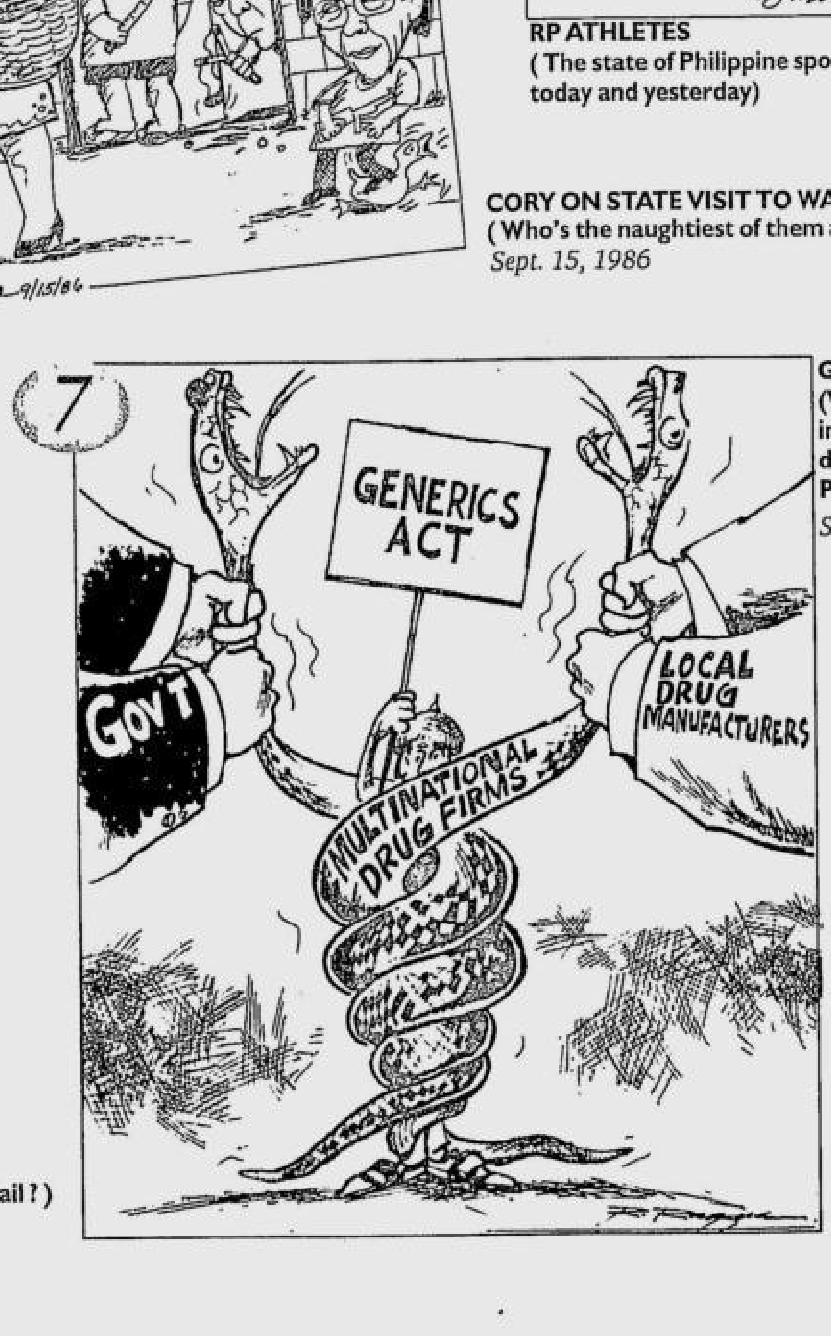
CORY ON STATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON
(Who's the naughtiest of them all ?)
Sept. 15, 1986


4
RP ATHLETES
LACK OF FUNDS
LACK OF PREPARATION
POLITICKING

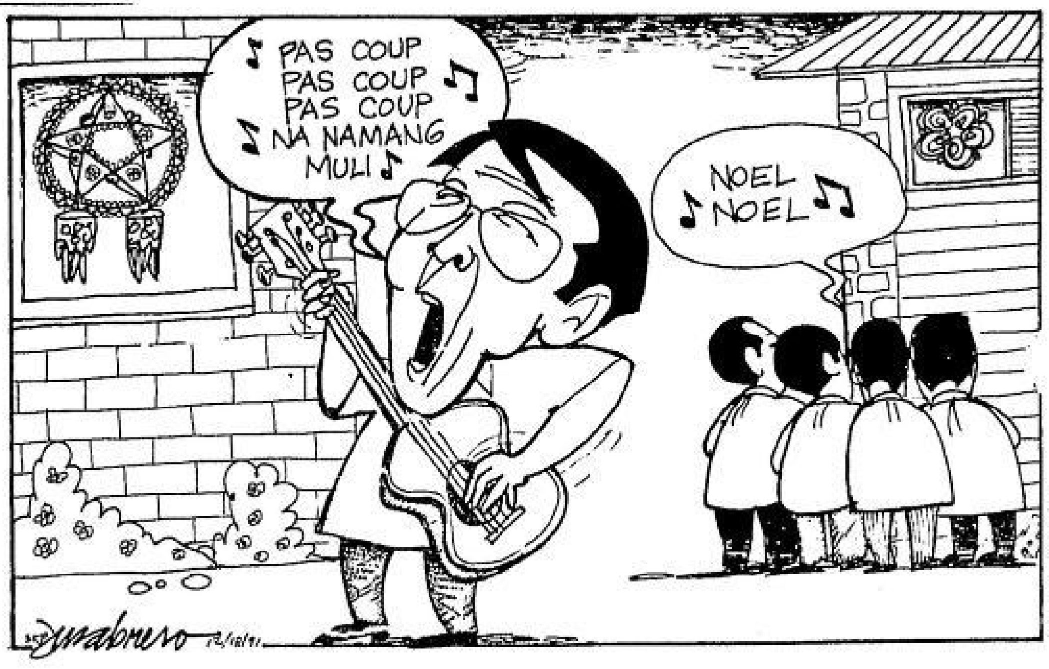
RP ATHLETES
(The state of Philippine sports today and yesterday)
Sept. 3, 1989


MAIL DELIVERIES
3
POSTAL SYSTEM
LOW MORALE & RESTIVENESS AMONG WORKERS
DEFECTIVE EQUIPMENT
jessabrera 8/5/89

POSTAL SYSTEM
(Who needs snail mail ?)
Aug. 6, 1989


7
GENERICS ACT
GOV'T
LOCAL DRUG MANUFACTURERS
MULTINATIONAL DRUG FIRMS

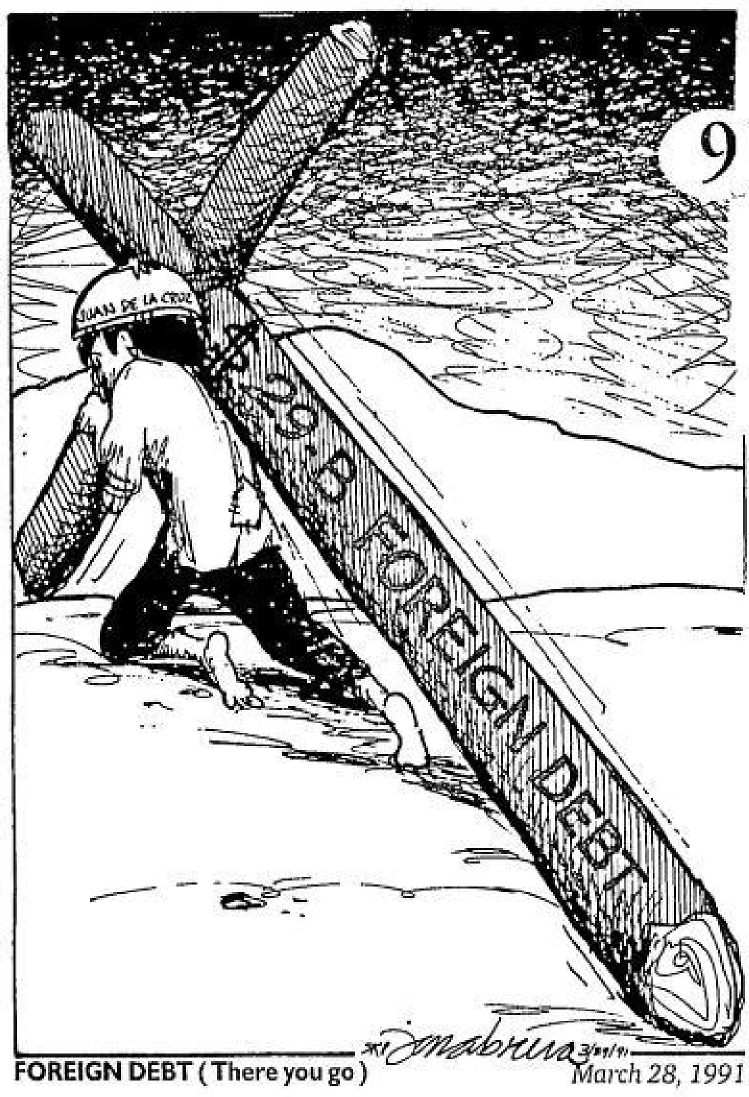
GENERIC ACT
(We're now importing cheaper drugs from India, Pakistan).
Sept. 21, 1989


PAS COUP PAS COUP PAS COUP NA NAMANG MULI
NOEL NOEL

8

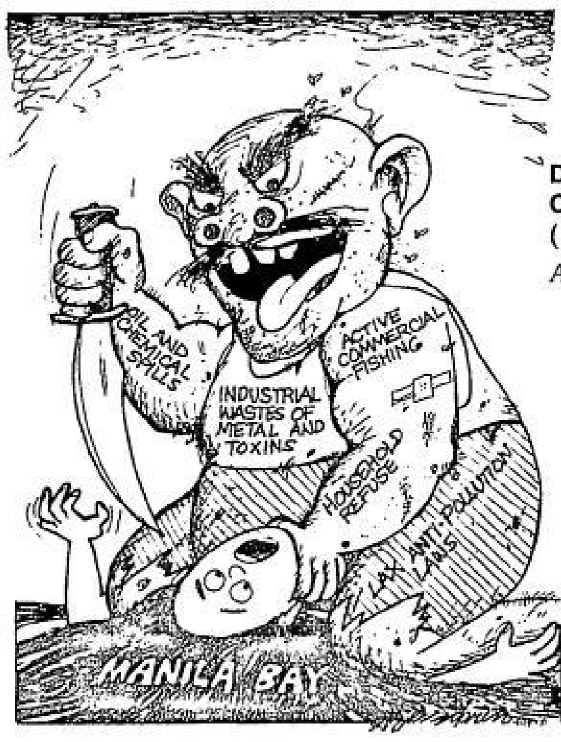
ALLEGED COUP PLOT
(So it was in the beginning)
Dec. 18, 1991

Everything old is ...


JUAN DE LA CRUZ
$29 B FOREIGN DEBT

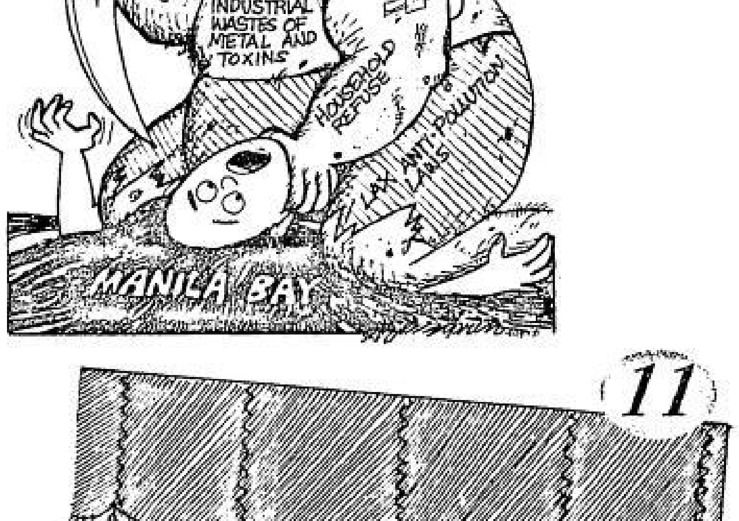
9

FOREIGN DEBT (There you go) *March 28, 1991*


OIL AND CHEMICAL SPILLS
INDUSTRIAL WASTES OF METAL AND TOXINS
ACTIVE COMMERCIAL FISHING
HOUSEHOLD REFUSE
LAX ANTI-POLLUTION LAWS
MANILA BAY

10

DESTRUCTION OF MANILA BAY
(And so it goes)
April 20, 1991

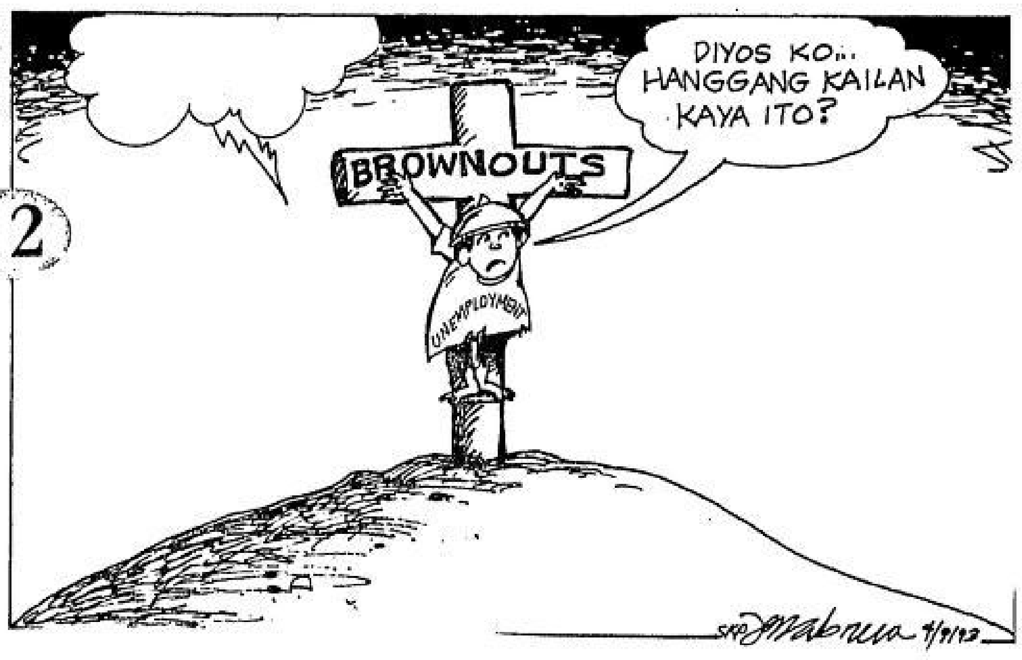

LINO BROCKA
THE END
ANG IKSI NAMAN...
TAPOS NA?
BIGLA NAMAN!
DAPAT MERON PA!
BITIN!
SAYANG!
WHAT AN ABRUPT ENDING!
!

11

DEATH OF LINO BROCKA
(Much remembered, fondly missed)
May 24, 1991

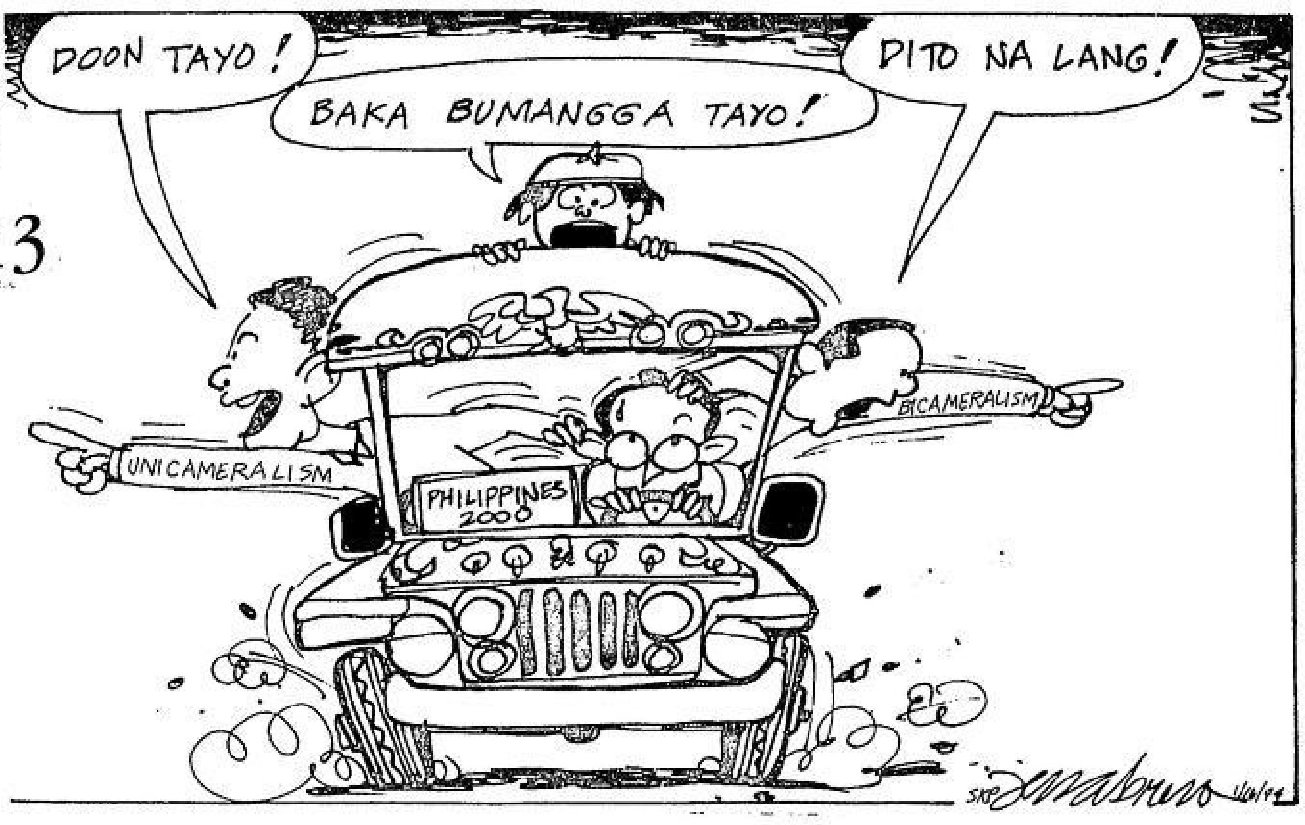
BROWNOUTS
(Debates over power still heated)
April 10, 1983

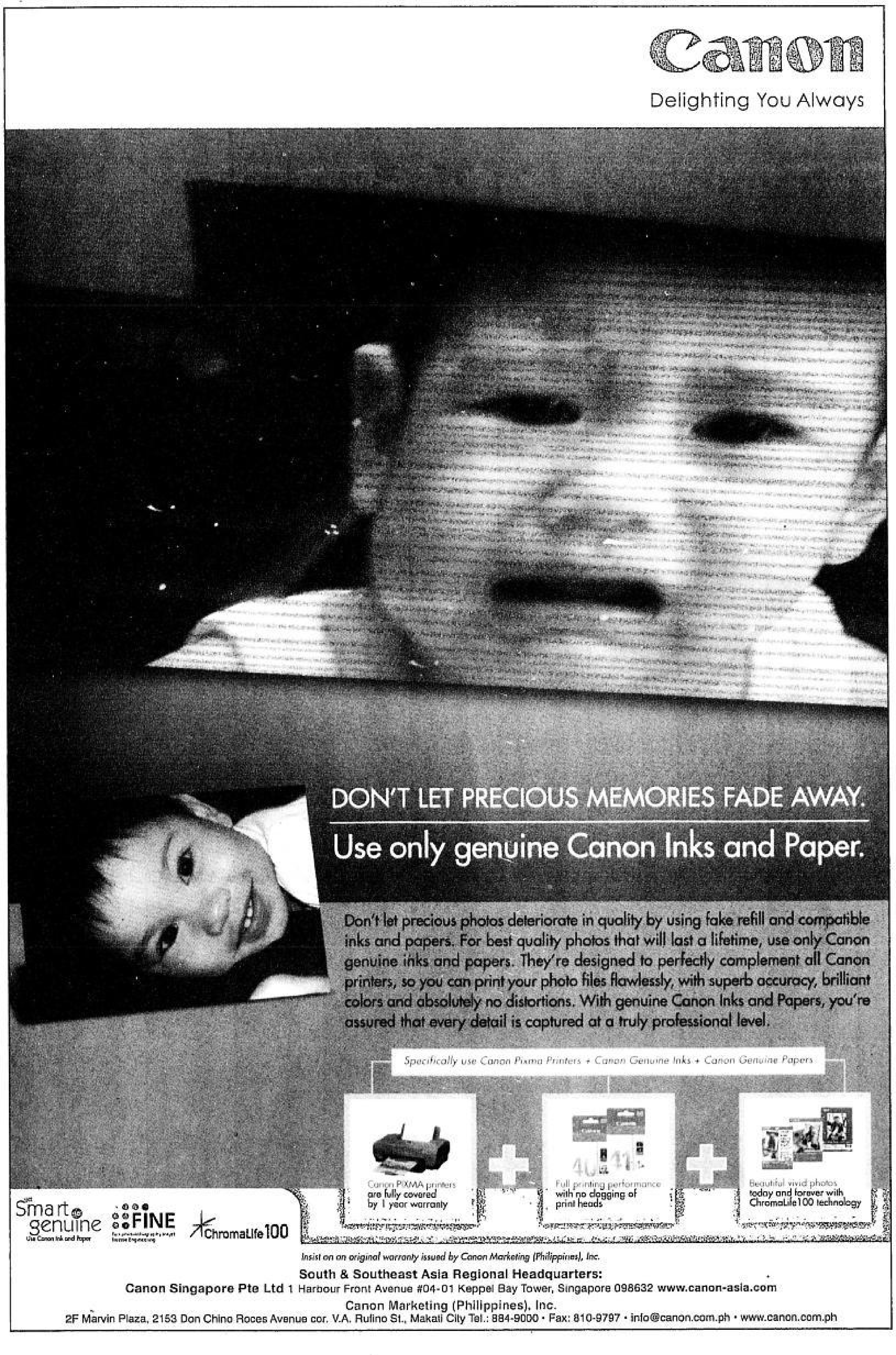
12


BROWNOUTS
UNEMPLOYMENT
DIYOS KO... HANGGANG KAILAN KAYA ITO?

FORM OF GOVERNMENT
(We never left home)
Jan. 17, 1994

13


DOON TAYO!
BAKA BUMANGGA TAYO!
DITO NA LANG!
UNICAMERALISM
BICAMERALISM
PHILIPPINES 2000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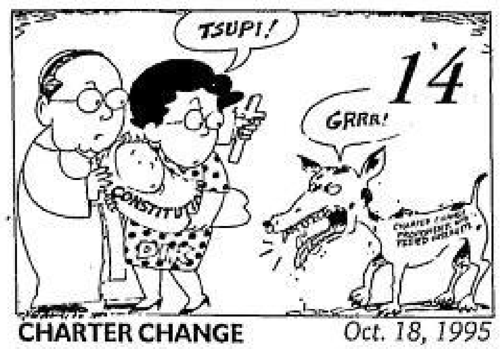
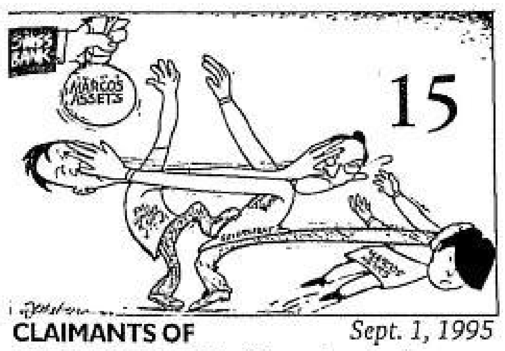
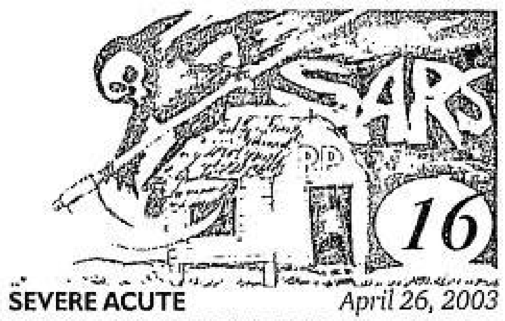
Everything...


TSUPI!
14
GRRR!
CONSTITUTION

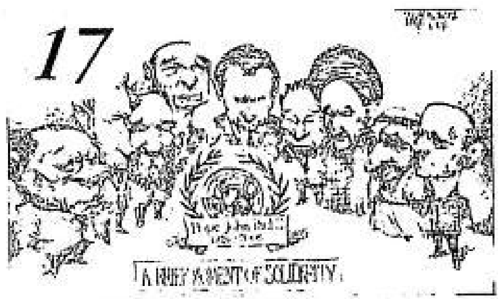
CHARTER CHANGE *Oct. 18, 1995*
(Sounds familiar)



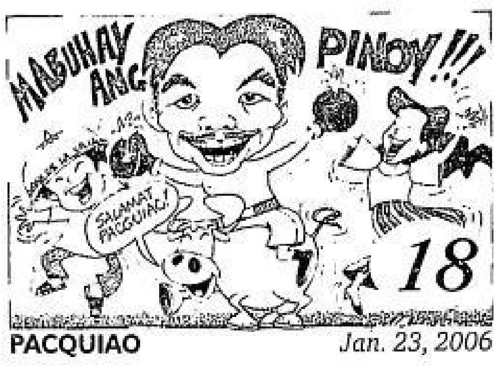
CLAIMANTS OF *Sept. 1, 1995*
MARCOS WEALTH (Same banana)



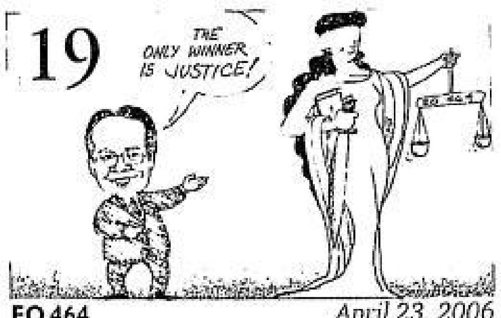
SEVERE ACUTE *April 26, 2003*
RESPIRATORY SYNDROME


17
A RARE MOMENT OF SOLIDARITY

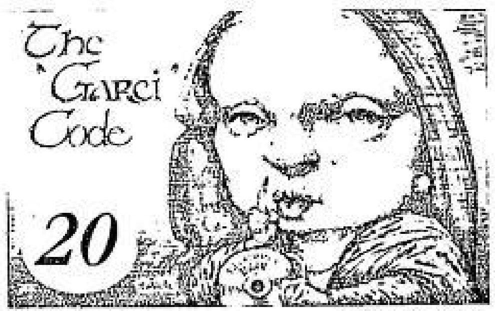
DEATH OF POPE JOHN PAUL II *April 15, 2006*
(The Filipinos' own saint)


MABUHAY ANG PINOY!!!
SALAMAT PACQUIAO!
18

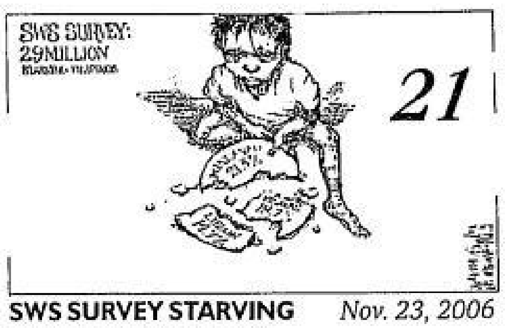
PACQUIAO *Jan. 23, 2006*


19
THE ONLY WINNER IS JUSTICE!
EO 464

EO 464 *April 23, 2006*
(Finest hour)



GARCI ISSUE *May 17, 2006*
(It just lies there)



SWS SURVEY STARVING *Nov. 23, 2006*
(They're all over Bicol)

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hp invent

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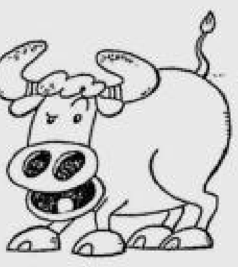
SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 9, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



Get out of the box but keep the box near

By Abelardo S. Ulanday
Associate Editor

INNOVATION IS A BUZZword in the INQUIRER world, and one of the big words that propelled it to what it is today and where it is now. Innovation continues to put the paper in a state of flux where change seems to be the only constant thing.

There's an overriding theme as far as innovations in the INQUIRER are concerned. It's "Go out of the box. Don't be content in your comfort zone."

It's a reminder for the staff not to be complacent and rest on its laurels. Success after all is not easy to manage. We need to be always on guard to know our options and chances on the playing field. And in the process, determine what to do next and implement the change or changes necessary to keep the paper viable and strong.

Here's a list of what I consider to be the 21 top innovations that have helped drive the INQUIRER to the top. Some editors thought some of the innovations were minor and should not have been included in the list. But I believe any innovation adopted, any change that occurs, is big enough to make a difference—if not now then certainly in the near future.

So go out of the box and run through the list ... but keep the box near you.

Erap firm on hero's burial for Marcos

INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Bells ring for freedom

Being Filipino is enough

Rizal: The best the Filipino could be

Bonifacio: Plebeian's ghost haunts other heroes

Aguinaldo: He gave RP the first taste of liberty

US journalist covered Kawit declaration

THE JUNE 12, 1998 issue: What a colorful delight.

Computerization

This is the single, biggest innovation adopted in late 1987 that helped propel the INQUIRER to where it is today. It plunged the company into the digital age. Suddenly, the newsroom went almost silent as computers replaced the noisy typewriters as the editors' and reporters' basic tool. In what seemed like a world gone topsy-turvy, editors faced what seemed like the daunting task of coping with DOS and other computer terms. It took us quite a while to get used to the silence and confusion, but when we did manage to cope there was no stopping us.

Full color in the main section

The INQUIRER started out as a monochromatic newspaper. There were times that a second or even a third color—we call it spot color—would be added but that's because the ad material specified it. It was done only on specific pages. In 1998, simultaneous with the country's celebration of the centennial anniversary of its independence, the INQUIRER went full color in the main section. It was an innovation whose time had come. We've found to our delight how color drastically changed the look of the paper and the

GET OUT/ L2

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NOVEMBER

11-12 Karl Edward Bazaar
NBC Tent, The Fort, Taguig

12 Inner Wheel Club of Manila Christmas Bazaar
Ballroom, New World Hotel, Makati

18-19 Karl Edward Bazaar
NBC Tent, The Fort, Taguig

25-26 Wack-Wack Yuletide Blessings Bazaar
Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club
Multi-Purpose Hall

DECEMBER

2-3 St. James the Great Bazaar
Cuenca Court, Ayala Alabang

6-10 Paskong Pinoy Grand Christmas Festival
Expo Centro, Araneta Center Cubao

9-10 Karl Edward Bazaar
NBC Tent, The Fort, Taguig

15-17 Karl Edward Bazaar
NBC Tent, The Fort, Taguig

20-24 Christmas Gifts Expo
Mega Trade Hall, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong

See flyers for details. Per DTI NCR Permit 5009 Series of 2006.

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Promo period November 11 to December 26, 2006
Per DTI NCR Permit A1-873 Series of 2006.

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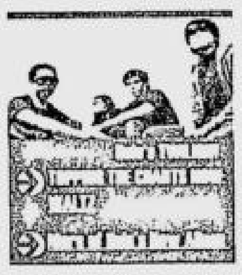

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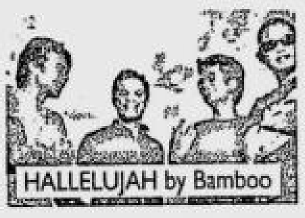

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Get out of the box...

From page L1

perspective of editors and artists as well.

Online project

INQUIRER's position as the leading newspaper in the country paved the way for its entry into cyberspace. The rationale is simple. If its goal was to become the most dominant paper in the country, then it must establish its presence in as many fields or areas as possible. The Internet was a logical choice. On Sept. 1, 1997, the company launched its online edition through the www.inquirer.net. It proved to be an instant success, with traffic increasing almost as fast as it could handle. In 2001, the INQUIRER spun off the site into a separate company, actually a joint venture with GMA 7 which became known as www.Inq7.net.

Inquirer News Service

The success of the online project made us realize how important and valuable the newspaper content has become to surfers and researchers. This included various publications particularly those circulated in North America which regularly access the site and download the stuff for use in their own publications. This led to the setting up of the INQUIRER News Service that now sends content to subscribers, including stories and photos.

Digital Prepress Unit

In early 1998, we set up the Digital Prepress Unit, or DPU, to upgrade and enhance the prepress operation and capability of the newspaper. We had then slowly weaned the production staff away from manual operations and trained them in digital processes. The DPU paved the way for the INQUIRER's prepress process to go electronic. The result: A faster, more efficient operation.

DPU staff busy at work. ROMY HOMILLADA

Remote printing sites

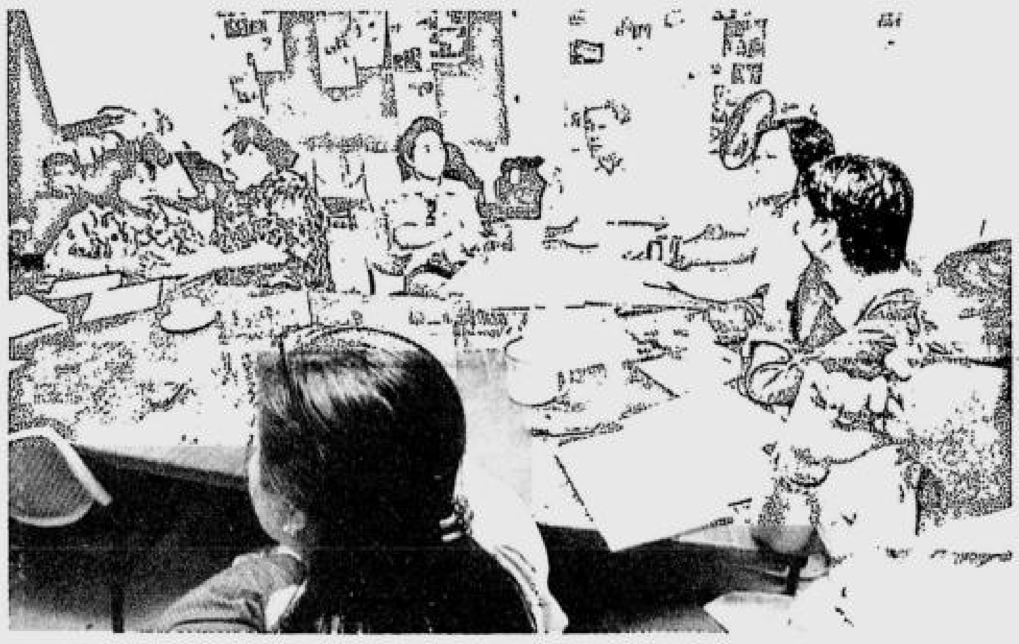
Since 1985, copies of the newspaper intended for the Visayas and Mindanao were loaded onto planes. Copies intended for Luzon were delivered overland. Today, the INQUIRER is printed in Makati and three other remote sites: One in Cebu, another in Davao, and a third in Mamplasan, Laguna. These remote printing sites enabled the INQUIRER to explore other ways to reach more readers and to deliver the paper to them on time.

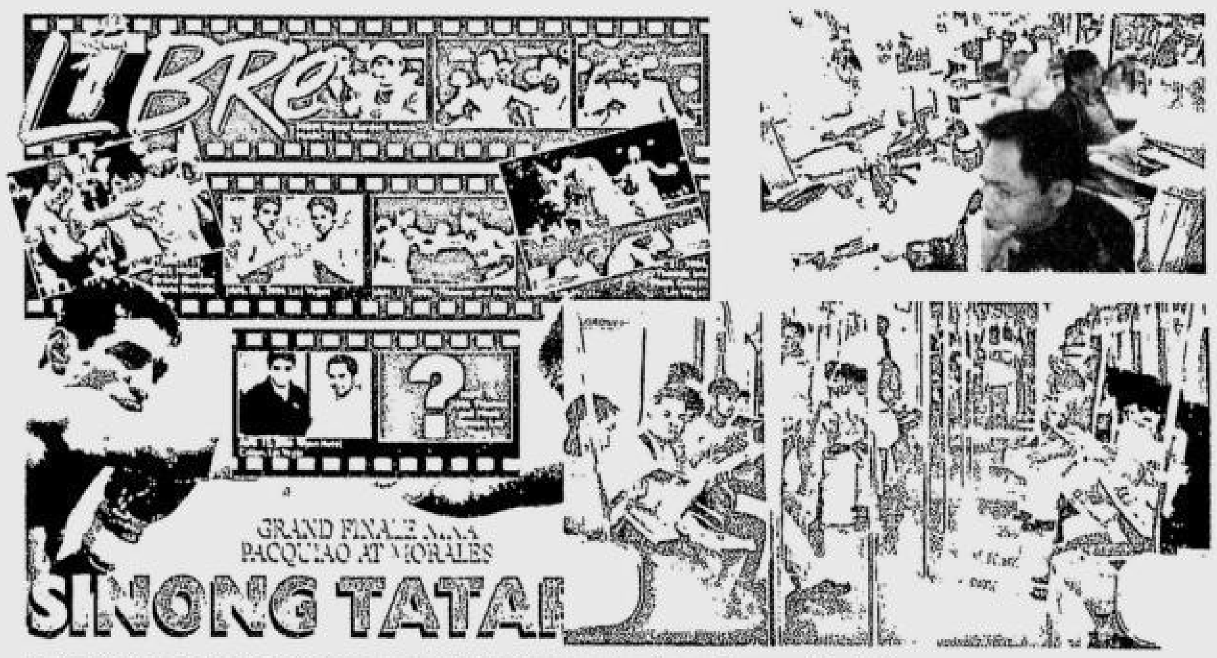
'Project Big'

This is one of the most significant innovations the INQUIRER adopted in 2002. Faced with rising production and newsprint costs, the INQUIRER decided to adopt a "slimmer" look and size for the paper without sacrificing its quality and content. This also paved the way for a redesign of the paper, producing in the process a livelier, more colorful and a more organized packaging of stories. It became easier to read and to hold, too.

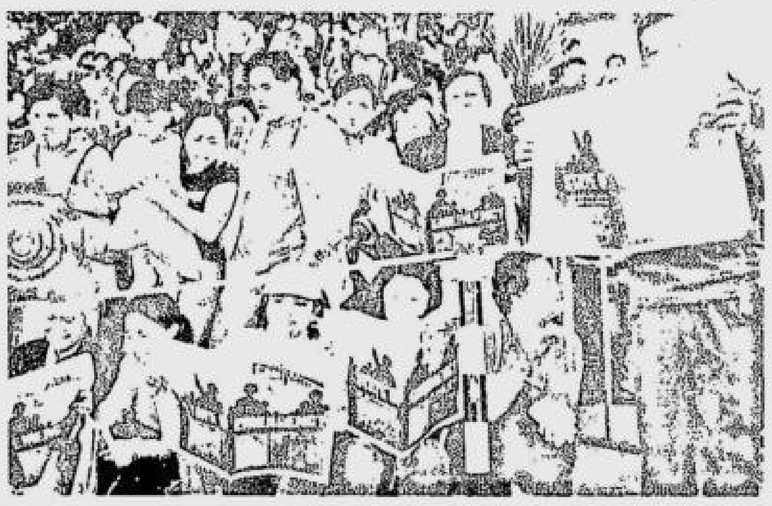
Libre

Who would have thought a free newspaper would work here? Yet as early as the middle of the year 2000, management and senior editors had been discussing and planning for the production and launch of such a publication. With the LRT and MRT stations as outlets and the passengers as the market, Libre was launched on Nov. 19, 2001. Since then, it has defied the odds and has become a trailblazer in the regional newspaper industry.


ECONOMICS whiz Cayetano Paderanga Jr. as guest critic at a News Day Desk meeting.



LIBRE's appeal on readers owes much to its visual packaging and energetic staff. PDI PHOTO


BAGUIO visitors read Compact while waiting for the city's flower festival to begin. TOOTS SUBERANO

New editorial system

The INQUIRER now uses an editorial system called Tera GN3, or simply Tera. It was installed in 2001 and was first used on Libre. Tera has empowered the editors, deskpersons and production assistants, enabling them to select and edit stories on screen, select and crop photos, and mine the INQUIRER archives.

Pongrass project

This is the name of the software the INQUIRER bought and installed to put order in display and classified ads. It actually automated the entire process—starting from the booking of ads, to scheduling, and then to page preparation. The result: Better monitoring of the display and classified ads ran in the newspaper.

Digital ad delivery

We used to get advertising materials in films (either positive or negative). Others were submitted in camera-ready form. The rest were manuscripts which our production staff encoded and composed. Today, a little over 90 percent of ad materials are in digital form. It's sharper, flexible and convenient.

"What an uncontrollable world, wild and crazy"
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'It plowed right into the Pentagon'
COA wants Pascual et al. to return P72M
Army report: Operation shot through with errors
INQUIRER Sunday
RP backtracks on Iraq
power&glory
Gloria's photo ops get trendier
This Sept. 11 story has a happy ending
INQUIRER goes slim in Project Big.

Computer to plate

This innovation has vastly improved the INQUIRER's prepress operation. It has saved us precious time in "going to press" which has proved valuable when there are latebreakers.

Windows

This is a design feature you see on the front page of many newspapers abroad. The INQUIRER adopted it in 2003 primarily as a tool to lure readers to go beyond the front page. It works like an index to the other stories inside the paper which otherwise may be ignored by the busy readers of INQUIRER.

News Day Desk

Planning and overseeing the news coverage for the INQUIRER are two of the most difficult jobs in the paper. This used to be the responsibility of the city editor before. With so many news events to cover and with radio and television—and the Internet not long after—providing stiff competition, it became necessary to set up the News Day Desk. It functions like an expanded city desk, with the tasks of planning and coordinating news coverage daily farmed out to several senior editors. It keeps the paper competitive and a cut above the rest.

Correction box

Deadline pressures and tension often result in oversights and mistakes in stories and features. Who doesn't make mistakes, anyway? But as a mark of a professional newspaper and to make us more aware of such errors and lapses, we've put up a Correction Box that contains such mistakes and correction.

The InqTV experiment

The INQUIRER became the first national newspaper to venture into television, through a weekly newsmagazine program that aired on ABC. The experiment—which lasted seven seasons and aired over a hundred stories—taught the newspaper going-forward lessons both in broadcast journalism and the future of video.

Readers' advocate

The INQUIRER is the only major newspaper in the country that has a readers' advocate. The position proves just how much the paper cares for its readers and the general public. The INQUIRER listens to them. It's a taxing job because the readers' advocate attends to the complaints of readers about unfair and inaccurate news and photos and other violations

GET OUT/ L4

INQUIRER News Service staff headed by Miguel Suarez (foreground). ROMY HOMILLADA

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4934 Series of 2006

Dolly Ann lords it over Conrad online

By Javier Vicente D. Rufino
INQ7.net

READERS OF INQ7.NET MAY not be aware of it, but as they click through the website and devour the day's breaking news and top headlines, they are also providing online and print editors with valuable feedback on what news they consider important.

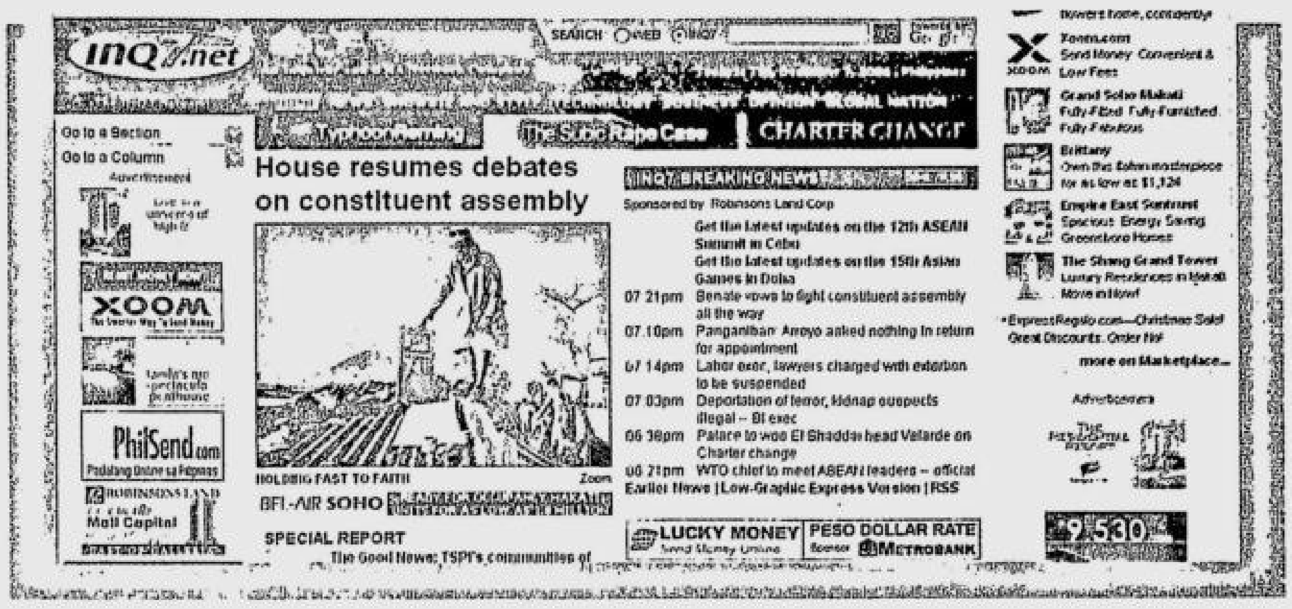
The feedback is gathered not through web forms or polls but by a traffic monitoring system that tracks what people are clicking on in the site.

The system monitors how many times a page is viewed by site visitors. The more pageviews an article gets, the higher its ranking in the most-read list.

The editors use the most-read lists in much the same way television stations use TV show ratings—to get a feel of what readers like or dislike.

Each week, the results of the previous week are discussed at the weekly editorial assessment meeting. They are also posted on the site (http://www.inq7.net/specialfeatures/theinq7top10/) so readers can see for themselves what fellow readers consider important.

As part of the INQUIRER's 21st anniversary, INQ7.net has compiled the 21 most-read stories and columns on the site since the traffic monitoring system first went online in its present form in late May 2005.



INQ7.net

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House resumes debates on constituent assembly

HOLDING FAST TO FAITH
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BEL-AIR SOHO

SPECIAL REPORT
The Good News: TSPI's communities of

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Get the latest updates on the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu
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07 21pm Senate vows to fight constituent assembly all the way
07 10pm Panganiban: Arroyo asked nothing in return for appointment
07 14pm Labor exec, lawyers charged with extortion to be suspended
07 03pm Deportation of terror, kidnap suspects illegal – BI exec
06 38pm Palace to woo El Shaddai head Velarde on Charter change
06 21pm WTO chief to meet ASEAN leaders – official
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9.530

Most-read stories

1. SEA Games official medal tally (Top Stories, Nov. 29, 2005); Pageviews: 105,436
2. Tolits and Priscila very much alive (Entertainment, June 1, 2005); 103,914
3. 'Suicide bomber' flew on RP plane (Nation, Sept. 1, 2006); 86,674
4. 'Reming' changes course, won't hit Metro directly (Breaking News, Nov. 30, 2006); 83,886
5. Pacquiao stops Morales in superfeatherweight bout (Top Stories, Jan. 23, 2006); 80,770
6. Lacson announces bid to run for Manila mayor (Breaking News, Nov. 13, 2006); 79,823
7. Fugitive Honasan captured (Breaking News, Nov. 15, 2006); 76,107

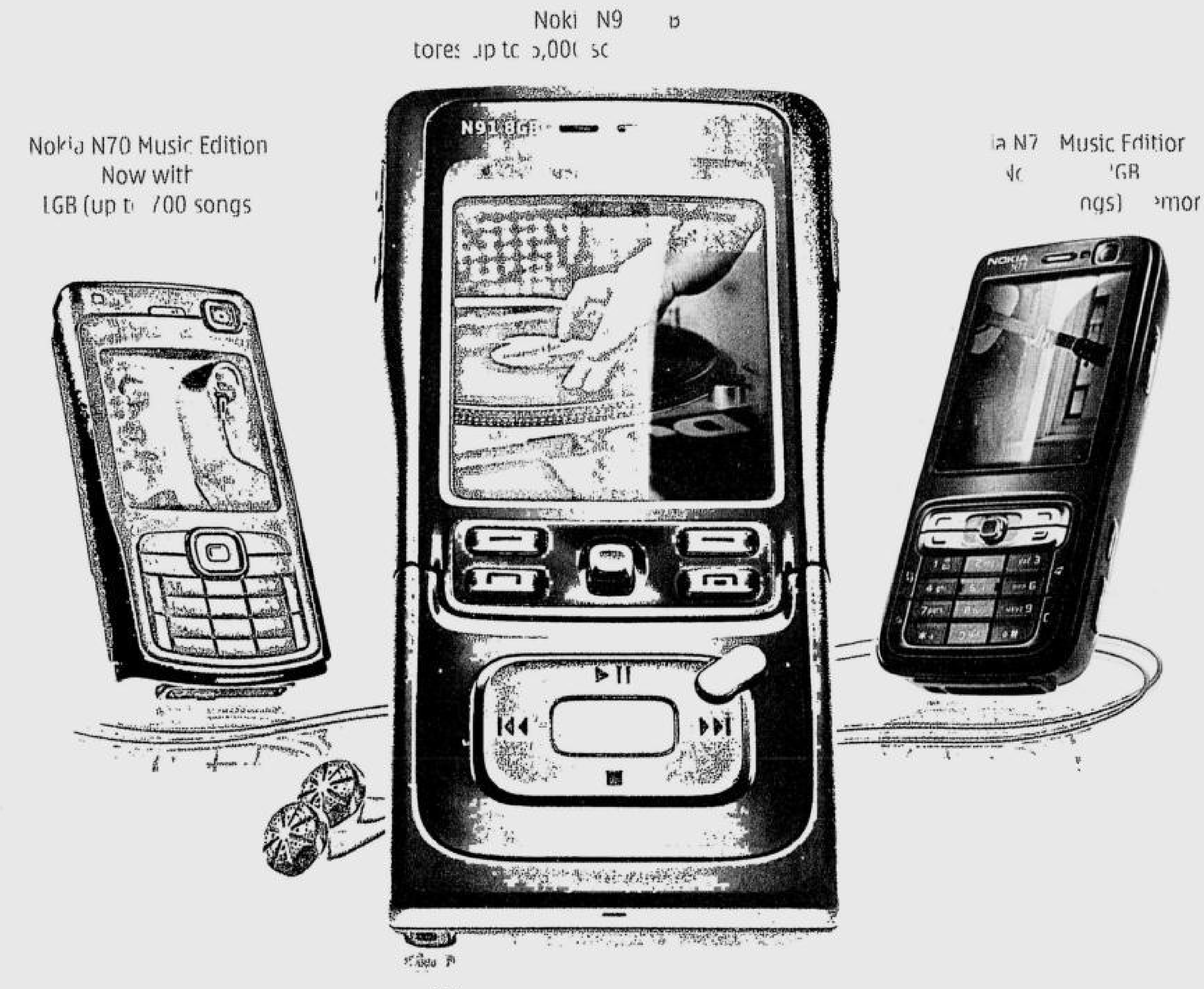
8. Scores dead in game show stampede (Breaking News, Feb. 4, 2006); 68,412
9. Pacquiao knocks out Morales (Breaking News, Nov. 19, 2006); 65,615
10. Former senator Roco dies (Breaking News, Aug. 5, 2005); 63,125
11. Lara Quigaman crowned Miss Int'l 2005 (Breaking News, Sept. 26, 2005); 62,662
12. 6 US servicemen accused of rape in Subic (Top Stories, Nov. 3, 2005); 61,157
13. 'Reming' a super typhoon, to hit Metro Manila Friday (Breaking News, Nov. 30, 2006); 59,562
14. Anti-Arroyo rally in Makati draws 30,000, stars Poe widow (Breaking News, July 13, 2005); 58,526
15. ABS-CBN sacks De Castro's show (Nation, Jan. 12, 2006); 58,009
16. Why Taylor Hicks is 2006's American Idol (Entertainment, May 27, 2006); 51,796
17. Roces to Arroyo: 'You stole the presidency' (Breaking News, June 29, 2005); 51,664
18. Arroyo impeach rap—How the House voted (Top Stories, Sept. 7, 2005); 49,250
19. DoJ: Revillame may be liable as show host (Nation, Feb. 7, 2006); 48,549
20. Game show stampede: 74 dreams crushed (Nation, Feb. 5, 2006); 47,895
21. Arroyo apologizes for 'lapse in judgment' (Nation, June 28, 2005); 47,711

Most-read columns

1. There's no use denying it, Maui! (Dollywood, Sept. 19, 2005); Pageviews: 52,728
2. The word from Dina Bonnevie (Dolly, June 5, 2005); 38,526
3. Gretchen says she didn't bring whole house (Dolly, Nov. 28, 2006); 36,200

4. Last two minutes for Kris (Dolly, July 12, 2005); 34,213
5. Derek Ramsey caught kissing Camille Pratts (Dolly, Nov. 14, 2006); 34,105
6. Sexbomb's 'last dance' (Dolly, Mar. 22, 2006); 33,639
7. Rupert takes the broomstick in fifth 'Harry Potter' film (Only in Hollywood, Nov. 27, 2005); 33,224
8. Catching up with my old friend, Aga Muhlach (Dolly, Sept. 21, 2005); 32,792
9. John Prats comes to Camille's defense (Dolly, Nov. 20, 2006); 32,481
10. Ryan knows where his heart lies now (Dolly, Aug. 3, 2005); 32,182
11. Why Sexbomb quit 'Bulaga' (Dolly, Mar. 13, 2006); 32,012
12. Marvin soon to be dad of twins (Dolly, Aug. 1, 2005); 31,956
13. John Lloyd's girlfriend is a magazine editor (Dolly, June 28, 2006); 31,681
14. It's my turn to apologize (Dolly, Aug. 17, 2005); 31,529
15. Lovers' quarrel or dead end? (Dolly, Mar. 16, 2006); 31,383
16. Kitchie's manager speaks up (Dolly, Nov. 28, 2005); 31,367
17. Rufa Mae's tears not just for Duncan (Dolly, Mar. 29, 2006); 30,905

18. It' my turn to apologize (Dolly, Aug. 17, 2005); 30,713
19. Gretchen, Dawn make peace (Dolly, Nov. 29, 2006); 30,076
20. A visit to Harry Potter 5 set (Only in Hollywood, Oct. 12, 2006); 29,998
21. Shedding light on what happens in the dark (Dolly, Aug. 28, 2006); 29,763



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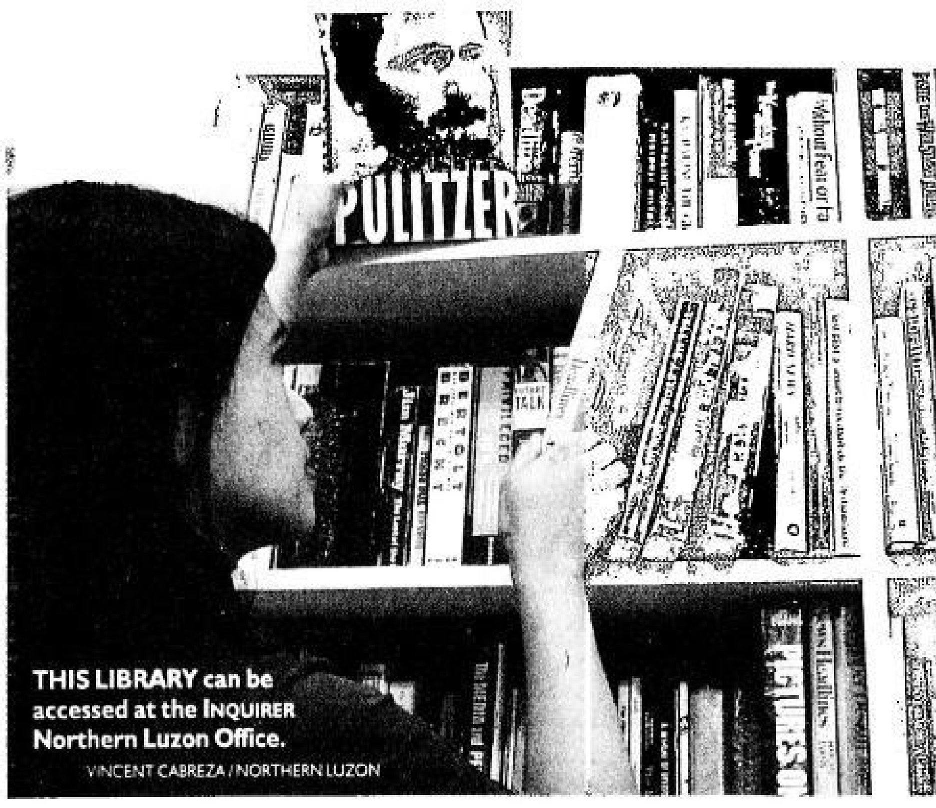
@21

'Yes, John, this library is better than the main'

Inquirer's Northern Luzon bureau stacks up enough books and opens a reading center


THIS LIBRARY can be accessed at the INQUIRER Northern Luzon Office.
VINCENT CABREZA / NORTHERN LUZON

ENCOUNTERS WITH BOB Woodward, Carl Bernstein, Larry King, William Safire, Conrad de Quiros, Armando Malay, Rodolfo Reyes, Ben Bradlee, Katharine Graham and other legends—living and gone—in the fields of journalism, broadcasting and publishing can be had at the new reading center of the Philippine Daily Inquirer Northern Luzon Bureau.

The center is at Room 201 Bonuan Apartelle on 10 Happy Glen Loop in Baguio City.

It is the bureau's contribution to the INQUIRER's reading campaign.

Comprising more than 1,000 titles, the media-related books, biographies and autobiographies in the center are meant to be handy references of correspondents, contributors, mass communication students and teachers and the general public.

The center also has a modest collection of Cordillera books.

Initially, the books are for room use only. As the center expands and a recording system is put in place, the books may be lent for overnight use.

Reporters and correspondents who have read good books are encouraged to park these at the center to give others a chance to enjoy a good read.

Said John Nery, INQUIRER Compact managing editor and a recent visitor to the center: "This library is more comprehensive than the one at the main office, especially books on media. I'd like to spend a summer here just reading them."

Reading hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays.

Get out...

From page L2

of the paper's Manual of Editorial Policies. The post is now handled by Lorna Kalaw-Tirol, a veteran editor and writer.

ROMY HOMILLADA
LORNA TIROL

INQUIRER Compact

A little more than a year ago, the INQUIRER joined the phenomenon called "compact revolution" with the launch of INQUIRER Compact. It is a daily newspaper with a strong regional orientation. Published in Metro Manila, it is distributed in key cities in Luzon. It features stories edited for the new format: Shorter, more visual and bigger page plays. It reflects the same passion for quality journalism that has been the hallmark of the INQUIRER.

Youngblood

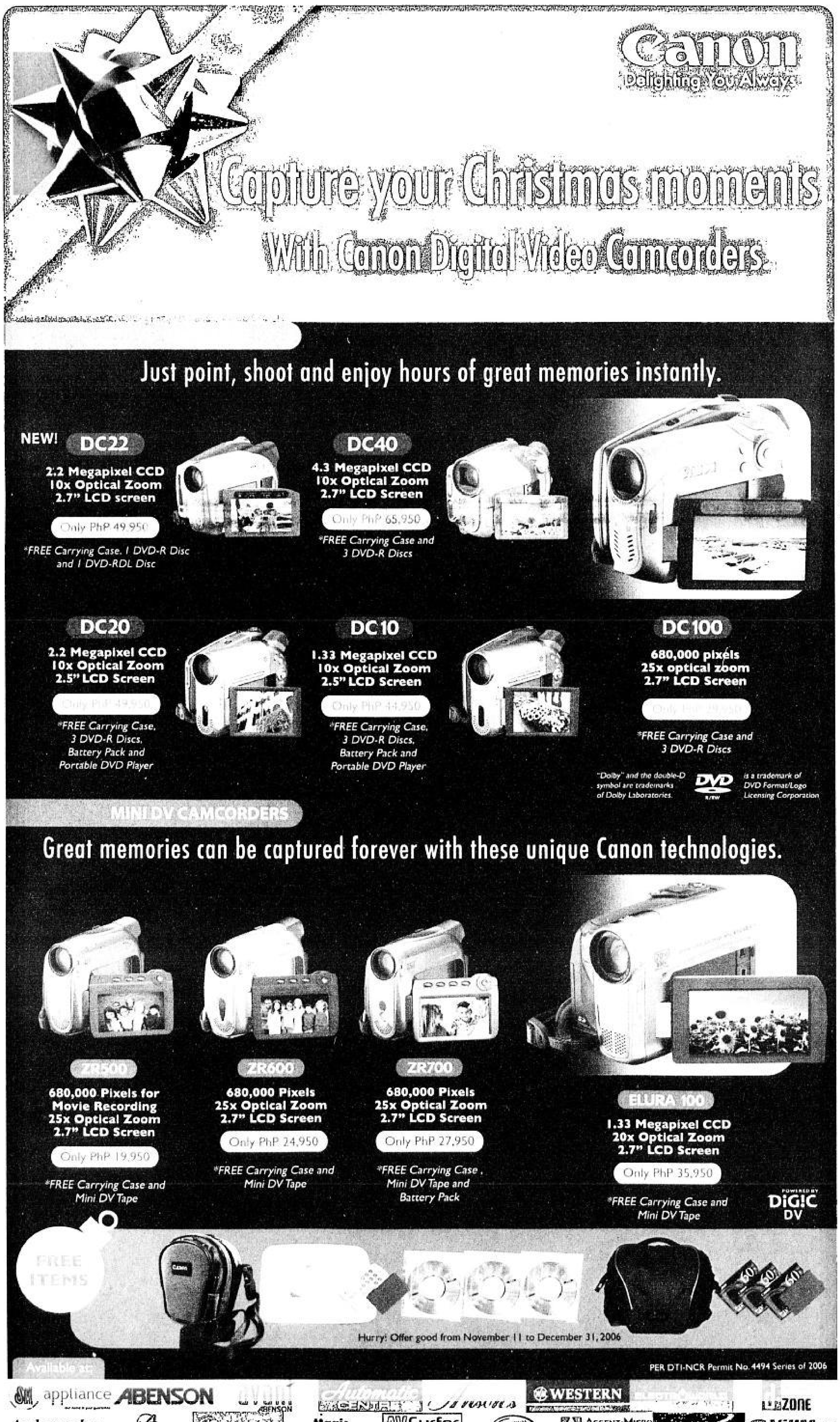
One of the most popular innovations introduced by the INQUIRER is the Youngblood column, which allowed young people to write on any topic they want. It proved to be a big success, judging by the number of articles that we had received and continues to receive. The articles published have been compiled in two books. The third volume of Youngblood articles is actually set to be launched today at the Powerbooks in Greenbelt.

Positive Sunday

Bad news is not a staple of the INQUIRER content. It values what is termed "feel-good" news stories. In fact, it has started featuring such stories in its Sunday issues, and editors often refer to the edition as the positive Sunday issue. Today, the daily edition almost always comes out with human interest stories that inspire and teach valuable lessons in life.

3 Ps

The INQUIRER introduced the 3Ps in 2000. It was first met with suspicion and confusion by the staff. The 3Ps stand for Person, Position and Performance. Based on these three aspects, the employee is given a fair and scientific computation of his basic salary and annual performance bonus.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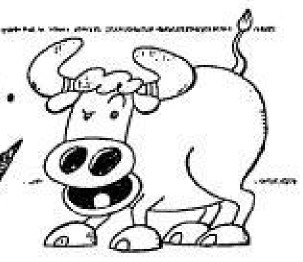


Guyito, 21, meets the (n)(t)ext gen

It's the usual suspect
INQUIRER

The text crowd finds inspiration in PDI's symbol

WHEN ALLAN BLAQUERA left for Metro Manila on Nov. 28, he had a heavy burden on his shoulders: To carry on his school's winning tradition.

Blaquera, a 15-year-old fourth-year student from Cagayan National High School, said he felt pressured to either equal or surpass last year's achievement by Dennis Policar.

When Policar did well in the 2005 National Quiz Bee, he earned for the school a glass-encased painted Guyito, an unusual sculpture that has become the school's symbol of pride and excellence.

As it turned out, Blaquera, Cagayan Valley's lone entry in the 2006 National Quiz Bee, did even better than Policar; he placed second among all contestants. But he did not bring home a Guyito, live or sculpted. Instead, he spread what we can call the spirit of Guyito.

Elena Mapagu, acting CNHS principal, said the Guyito sculpture in their midst seems to have infected everyone with a sense of inspiration and a hunger for excellence.

The CNHS' Guyito, placed inside the school's conference hall, has become a tourist draw of sorts. Recently, it was again the object of awe and inspiration as about 800 student-journalists and teachers from 35 elementary and secondary schools in Tuguegarao City gathered at the school for this year's schools division press conference, an annual competition organized by the Department of Education.

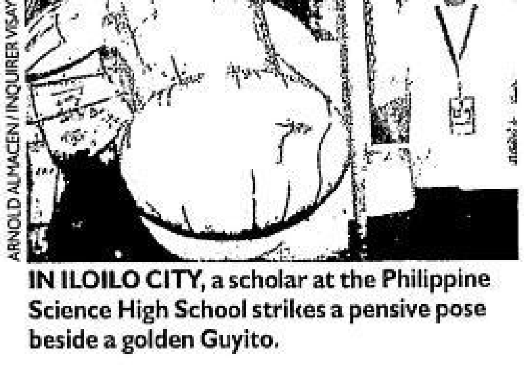
Julienne Angela del Rosario, editor in chief of The Chronicle, said Guyito's presence during the journalism seminar was doubly significant. "It not only serves as our inspiration to win, but more importantly, it is there to watch over us, and seems to remind [the participants] to be responsible journalists always," she said.

Third-year student Danelle Marie Mabazza, 14, says the students are now becoming increasingly aware of their mission to perpetuate the good reputation gained by the school because of Guyito's arrival. "We are out to prove once more that a public school like CNHS can excel, contrary to what many people think," she said.

By and large, her words reflect the welcome the INQUIRER's painted Guyito sculptures received in other regions too. (*See story on Page M4.*) One last example, this time from all the way down south, in fair Zamboanga.

Fifteen-year-old Ralph Christopher Caoile of the Regional Science High School in Zamboanga City told the INQUIRER that he thought Guyito really represented the Filipino youth. "Whenever I see Guyito, I want to strive more," he said.

That, yet again, is an actual quote, from an actual, phonecard-carrying member of Generation Text. *Melvin Gascon and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes; with Russell Arador and Julie Alipala*


ARNOLD ALMACEN / INQUIRER VISAYAS

IN ILOILO CITY, a scholar at the Philippine Science High School strikes a pensive pose beside a golden Guyito.

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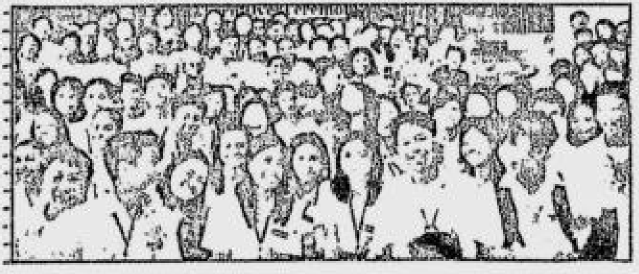
Guyito's magical mystery tour



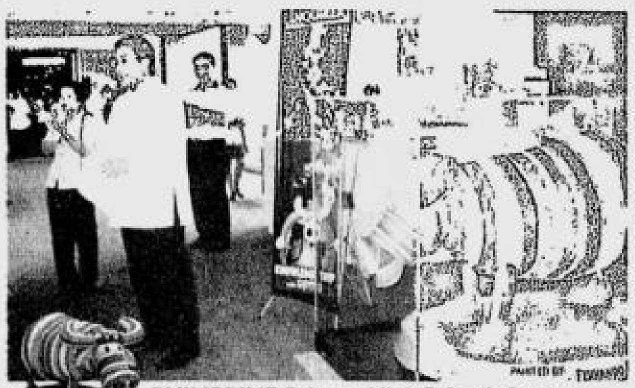
CAGAYAN National High School, Tuguegarao. Artist: Buds Convocar. A rousing welcome met the "high-tech" Guyito. "I [had] wanted to give it a twist," Convocar explained.

DAGUPAN City National High School. Artist: Ernesto Patricio. It rained hard the day Guyito arrived; the weather has since cleared, of course, but the inspirations continue to pour. School principal Teodora Nabor has announced plans for a writing contest on Guyito and what the icon represents.

PINES City National High School, Baguio City. Artist: Anton Balao. A carabao with wings takes flight.

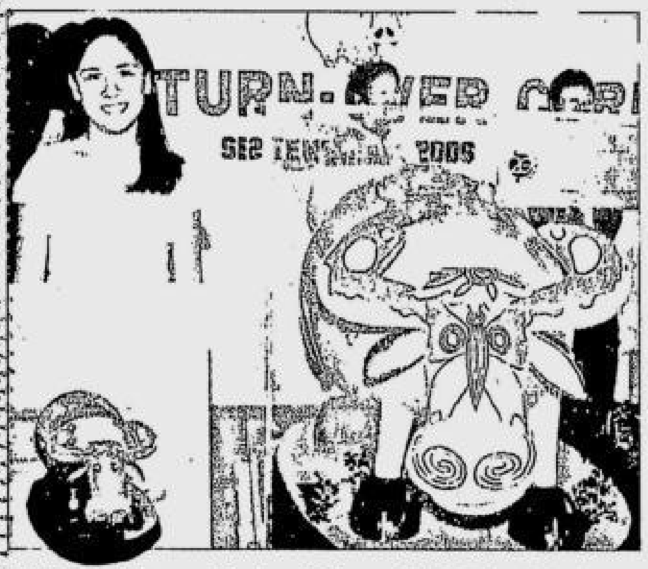
VICTORIA National High School, Victoria, Tarlac. Artist: Malang. Talk about lucky charms. After Guyito arrived, the school paper was adjudged best in all of Tarlac. "This is a first in the history of our school," gushed editor Melinda Besana.

MUNTINLUPA Science High School. Artist: Soler. The artist's stone garden theme worked itself naturally into Guyito's rather bulky frame, in brown, black and ochre. But in a real feat of serendipity, Soler Santos' subject for his next series—lakes and their reflections—was reflected in the school's bracing setting: a view of Laguna Lake.



PHILIPPINE Science High School, Quezon City. Artist: Fernando Sena. SVP Rene Reinoso reaches out to fellow scholars. ROGER CARPIO

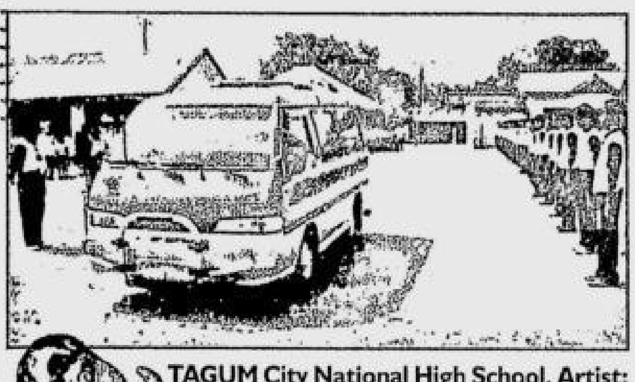
CAMARIN High School, Caloocan City. Artist: Rex Tatlonghari. One of the first ceremonies was also one of the best attended (*see Page M4*). A high school that regularly produces top-quality students (including a few alumni who now work for the INQUIRER), Camarin fielded student-journalists who skipped lunch just to take part in the workshop.



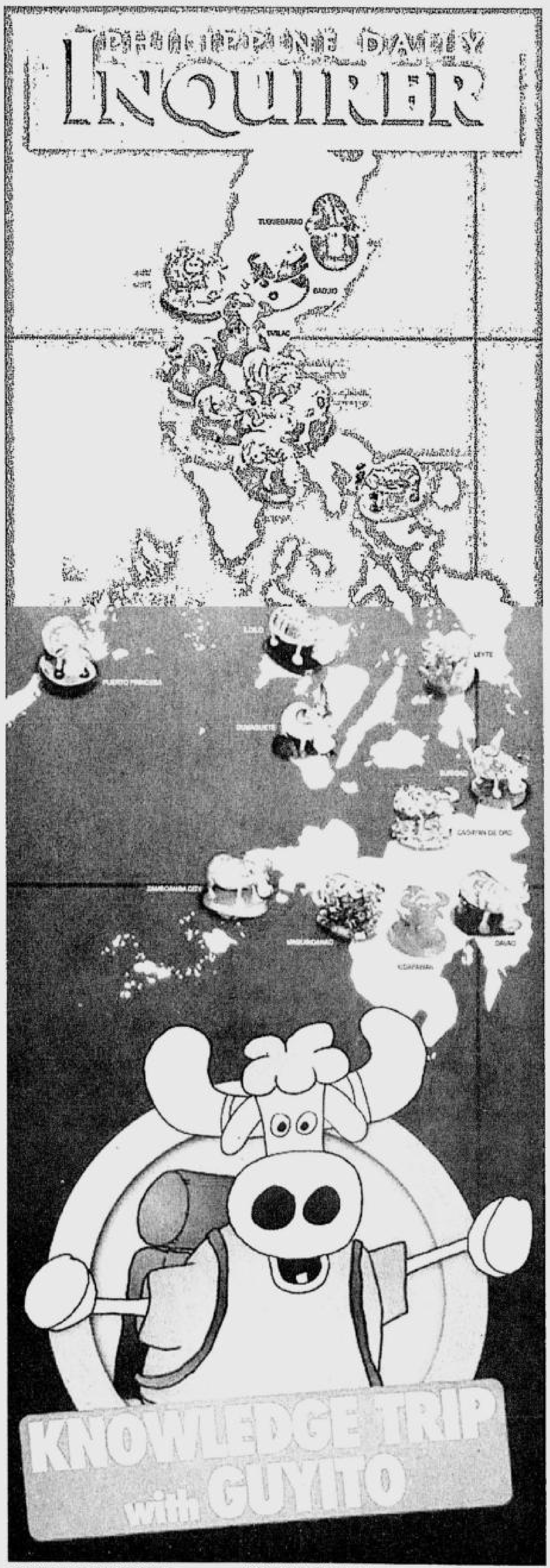
PUERTO Princesa National Science High School. Artist: Bencab. In a pose that was repeated in other turnovers, a student has her picture taken beside Guyito. RUDY ESPERAS

PHILIPPINE Science High School - Western Visayas, Iloilo City. Artist: Jef Samonte. Dr. Josette Biyo, the institution's famous school director, called Guyito "a symbol of passion for success and love for learning."

KIDAPAWAN National High School. Artist: Steve Santos. The turnover of the last of the 20 Guyitos, commissioned to mark last year's 20th anniversary of the INQUIRER, takes place this Monday.



TAGUM City National High School. Artist: Roel Obemio. An honor guard greets the INQUIRER team at the turnover rites. DENNIS JAY SANTOS

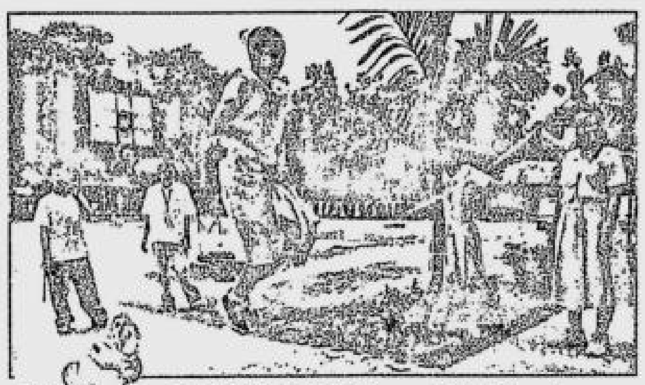


INFOGRAPHICS JERITO DELA CRUZ STREAMER ART JOSEPH FUA COPY JOHN NERY

MANILA Science High School. Artist: (the late) Romeo Forbes Jr. One of the very first Guyito turnovers, the ceremony in Manila was followed by a spirited journalism workshop. Editor Ruben Alabastro got students interested in the discipline by first talking about something they could readily relate to: their love life.

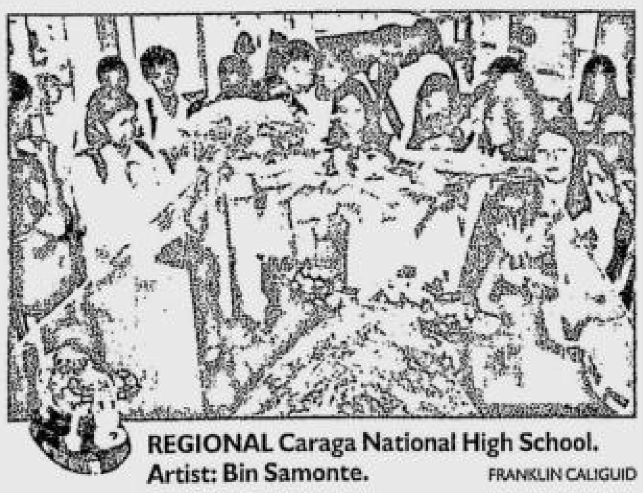
HOLY Rosary College, Santa Rosa, Laguna. Artist: Lydia Velasco. A chorus of happy voices. ROGER CARPIO

PHILIPPINE Science High School - Bicol Region Campus, Goa, Camarines Sur. Artist: Wilfredo Offemaria Jr. The school may be earning a name for its quality students (it won the most recent Science Olympiad), but its top-flight teachers are also highly accomplished. They became the first group of teachers to perform during a Guyito turnover.



DUMAGUETE Science High School. Artist: Kidlat Tahimik. Waiting for Guyito, students while the hours away. RUDY ESPERAS

LEYTE National High School, Tacloban City. Artist: Frank Caña Valencia. Sent to the wrong place, Valencia's Guyito fell among the wrong people, the superstitious sort, who had the silver-horned work of art detained and "blottered." Their reason? They thought it was a malignant spirit. Free spirit, maybe.

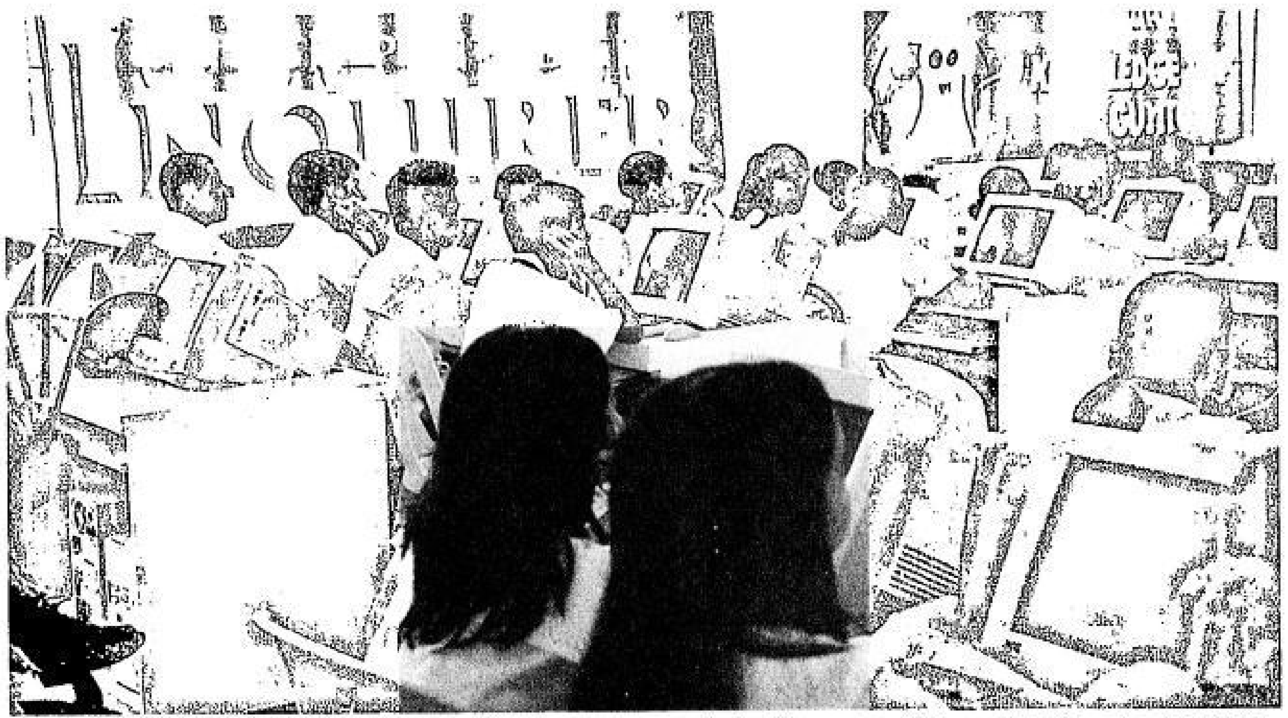


REGIONAL Caraga National High School. Artist: Bin Samonte. FRANKLIN CALIGUID

PUNTOD National High School, Cagayan de Oro City. Artist: Bing Siochi. The ceremonies in the City of Golden Friendship turned into a homecoming too, when ex-principal Fe Ancheta-Remalig returned to the "smallest high school in the Philippines" to join the welcome rites.

REGIONAL Science High School, Zamboanga City. Artist: Jack Salud. The school's science department coordinator, Dominic Bais, said Guyito "symbolizes hard work, diligence and excellence, like the INQUIRER."

AMIR Baralidasan National High School, Maguindanao. Artist: Tres Roman. His Guyito, editor Alya B. Honasan writes, is "a four-legged explosion of vivid colors from nature that looks like a cross between a brilliant stained glass window and a festive Mexican piñata."

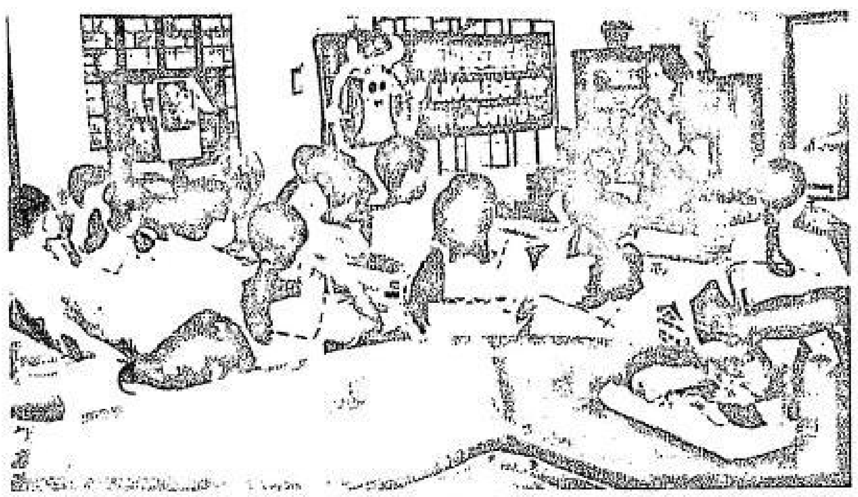


SUNLIGHT brightens an INQUIRER streamer in a computer room in the Dumaguete Science High School, as students take part in a Guyito journalism workshop. RUDY ESPERAS

Spreading the word, sharing the passion

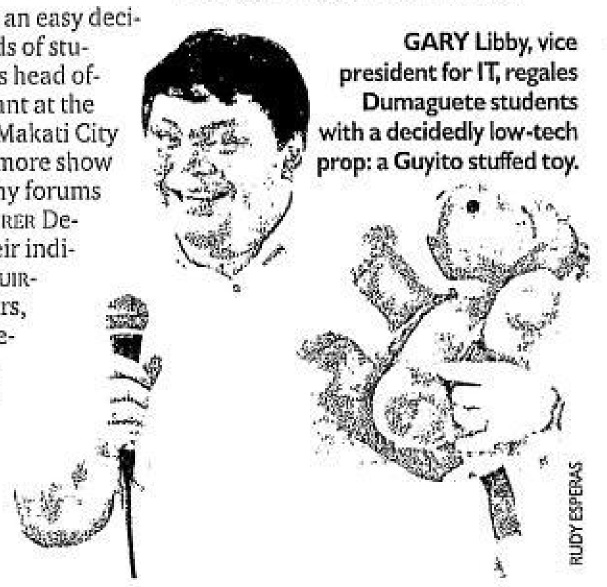
RIGHT FROM THE very start, when the painted-Guyito idea was first glimpsed during a meeting of the INQUIRER's 20th anniversary committee in early 2005, the notion of offering journalism workshops to the winning schools was already in the air.

No mere turnover ceremonies; that much was clear. The committee realized that the newspaper's responsibility extended to spreading the word about its work and sharing the passion that marked its agenda-setting journalism.



INQUIRER Central Luzon's Tonette Orejas shares some secrets of the trade with journalists-to-be in Tarlac.

In many ways, it was an easy decision to reach. Thousands of students visit the INQUIRER's head office and the printing plant at the back of the building in Makati City every year. Thousands more show up at the INQUIRER's many forums or take part in the INQUIRER Debates, every year. In their individual capacity, the INQUIRER's editors and reporters, its columnists and correspondents reach thousands more of students and journalism junkies, through seminars and workshops, every year.



GARY Libby, vice president for IT, regales Dumaguete students with a decidedly low-tech prop: a Guyito stuffed toy. RUDY ESPERAS

A journalism workshop as part of the Guyito turnover rites seemed only natural.

The result has been, to appropriate a vivid Tagalog phrase, heart-fattening: "*Nakakataba ng puso.*"

By the time the first Guyito was turned over to the first beneficiary-school in July this year, the workshop program had been firmed up: a module on the news cycle, another module on the newspaper-making process, plus modules on news and features writing. The best part of the program, however, was (always) the question-and-answer portion.

Some of the questions were wonderfully profound. "If journalists are in pursuit of truth, why do you have libel suits?" a senior in the Philippine Science High School-Bicol Region Campus in Goa, Camarines Sur wanted to know. Easy enough to answer, especially in terms that even public figure Jose Miguel Arroyo can understand, but it was clear that a lot of thought had gone into the question.

"We'll fight to the end"

READERS' Advocate Lorna Kalaw Tirol talks shop with students from the Puerto Princesa National Science High School. RUDY ESPERAS

Some were engagingly process-oriented. "How do you choose your stories for Page One?" was raised in forums from Luzon to Mindanao.

Some were either forward-looking (if, that is, the inquirer was looking forward to a career in media) or just plain gossipy: "How much do journalists make?" (The answer depends, of course, on which media organization one works for, which industry one serves, which part of the country one practices the profession.)

Many questions were informed by a genuine curiosity about the news-making process. That curiosity was reflected in the questions the resource persons themselves asked: Where do you get your news? How often do you read? Whom do you trust?

Several editors and company executives took turns serving as resource persons, including associate editor Abel Ulanday, opinion editor Jorge Aruta, national editor Jun Bandayrel, INQUIRER Compact's John Nery, Northern Luzon Bureau chief Rolly Fernandez, Southern Luzon Bureau chief Sol Solmirano, Mindanao Bureau chief Nico Alconaba, correspondents such as Tonette Orejas of Central Luzon and Grace Albasin from Cagayan de Oro, and Reader's Advocate Lorna Kalaw Tirol.

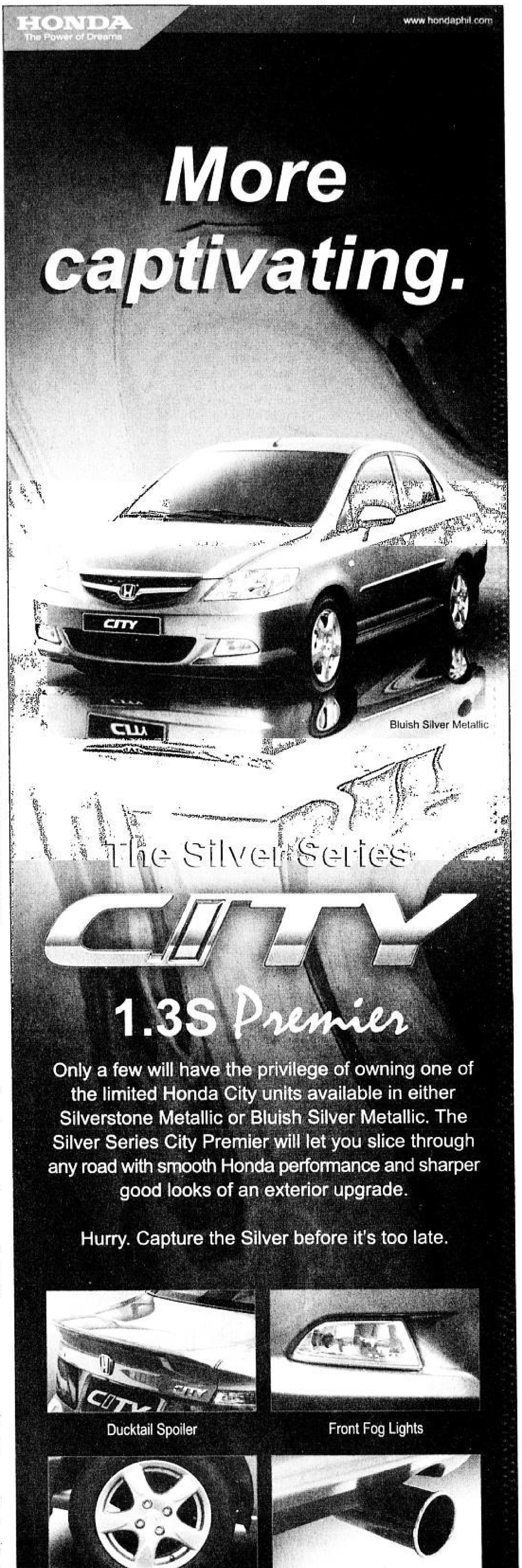
Company officials also helped out more than once, including SVP Rene Reinoso, VP for IT Gary Libby, AVP for Circulation Simon Yap, corporate affairs manager Connie Kalagayan and marketing associate Megi Garcia.

Adrian Uro, a student at the Regional Science High School in Zamboanga City, thanked the INQUIRER for serving as his inspiration in his work as a campus journalist. "I see the INQUIRER as possessing the strong power of journalism, even touching [base] with youths like us for development," he said.

Another campus journalist hundreds of kilometers away echoed his view. Said Juliane Moira Sy, associate editor of The Bicol Scholar: "It touched hearts and challenged intellects to see Guyito and have passionate people from a privileged publication share their ideas with us."

AT THE CAMARIN High School in Caloocan City, INQUIRER associate editor Abel Ulanday stresses a point during a lively journalism workshop. ROGER CARPIO

A REPORTER from ABS-CBN Zamboanga City interviews Connie Kalagayan, INQUIRER corporate affairs manager, on the Guyito knowledge tour, while INQUIRER national editor Pergentino Bandayrel waits for his turn. JULIE S. ALIPALA



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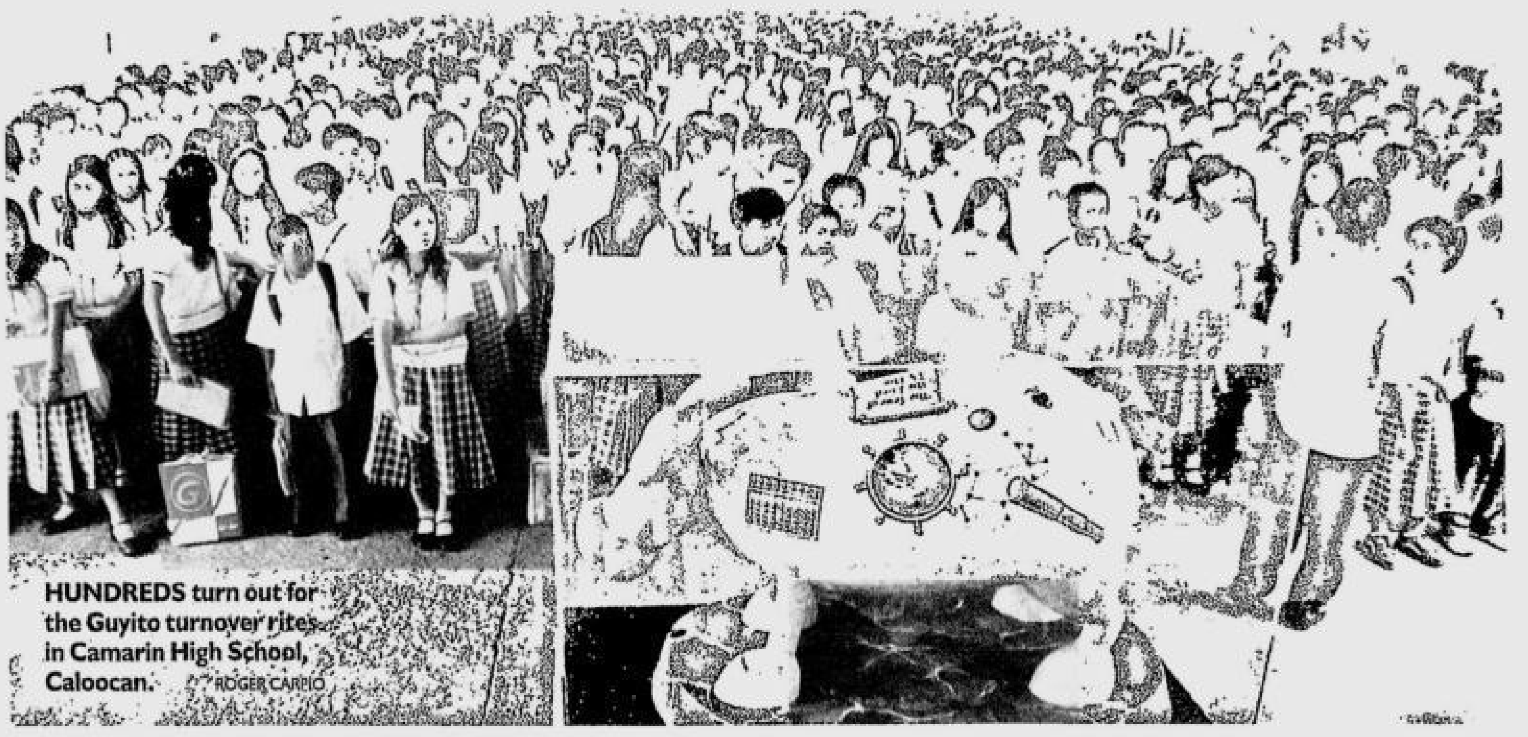
Guyito is *in* the building

OR IN THE LOBBY. Or in the hallway of the economics building (Iloilo), across the main school entrance (Tarlac), at the multipurpose Students' Pavilion (Goa). Or (in Zamboanga *hermosa*) in a Nature Garden.

Nineteen of the 20 life-size Guyitos commissioned last year, to mark the INQUIRER's 20th anniversary, have found a new home in various top-performing schools throughout the country. (The 20th will be turned over to the last beneficiary-school, in Kidapawan City, this Monday.)

The Guyito fiberglass sculptures—made by Juan Sajid Imao, painted by the country's most prominent or most promising painters, donated in the name of the INQUIRER's top advertising partners—made their way to their destinations over the last six months; a few undertook journeys that turned out to be as colorful as, well, their own painted selves.



HUNDREDS turn out for the Guyito turnover rites in Camarin High School, Caloocan. ROGER CARPIO

Hard rain soaked Guyito's arrival at the Dagupan City National High School. The surly weather did not ruffle the feathers of Ernesto Patricio's artistic version (or vision) of the INQUIRER icon, which was a hybrid beast of burden, a mix of the sarimanok and the earthbound carabao. (Call it "Saribaw.")

The reception in Baguio was equally wet. Umbrella-toting students at the Pines City National High School cheered when Anton Balao's Guyito—a beaming carabao with wings on its back—was unveiled, and when members of the school's Teatro Pino, in G-strings and native skirts, performed a war dance.

The welcome was even louder in Dumaguete City, because the turnover rites had started before Kidlat Tahimik's towering interpretation of Guyito could make it to the Ramon Teves Pastor Memorial Dumaguete Science High School (whew). It arrived in the middle of the program. Correspondent Alex Pal wrote: "At the sight of the truck carrying a wooden crate big enough to hold a carabao, the students broke out in cheers. 'Guyito' had finally arrived."

'Set Guyito free'

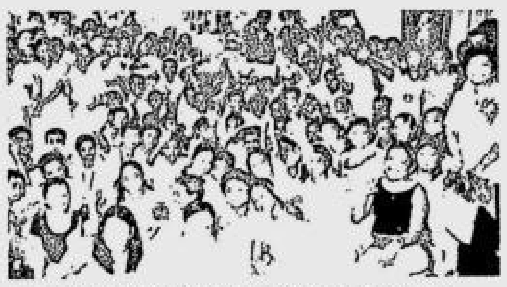
But the strangest journey was surely that of Frank Caña Valencia's Guyito, which was inadvertently sent to the wrong school, in the wrong town. Sharing the fate of many other strangers, especially of the human kind, the sculpture found itself met with hostility, even active misunderstanding.

The mix-up in addresses could be easily understood: It was sent to the Leyte National High School in Leyte town—not to the Leyte National High School in Tacloban City.

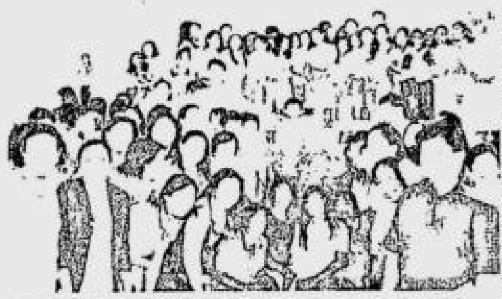
Because of the mix-up, however, Valencia's Guyito was detained, watched by both policemen and soldiers and even recorded in the police blotter.

It turned out some people in Leyte town were somewhat superstitious, and thought the strange apparition a malignant spirit.

Other places were decidedly more welcoming. An honor guard of high school cadets received Guyito in Tagum; grass-skirt-wearing dancers formed the reception line in Cagayan de Oro. They were happily ushering Guyito *into* the building. *J. Nery*



STUDENTS at the Dumaguete Science High School flash the peace sign after the turnover rite. RUDY ESPERAS

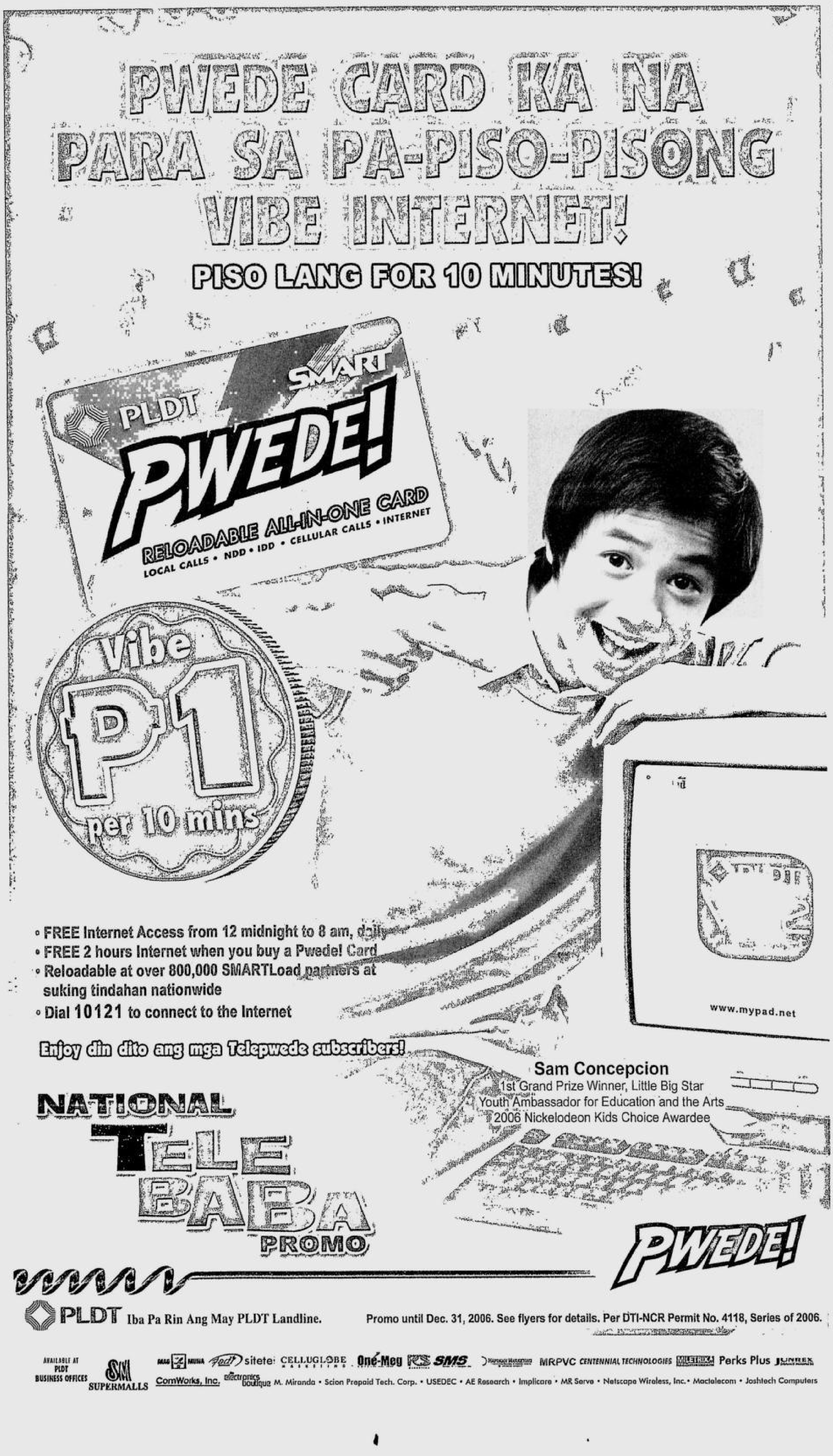


DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

TEACHERS and students crowd around the Guyito sculpture in Tagum City.

NINO ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

STUDENTS crowd in on the Guyito unveiling at the Philippine Science High School-Bicol Region Campus in Goa, Camarines Sur.



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21 who dared to answer

By Chelo Banal-Formoso, Lito Zulueta, Alex Vergara, Belle Bondoc

INQUIRER CHAIR MARIXI R. Prieto always says Lifestyle should award medals of valor to people who agree to be its Playtime interviewees. This is because in the give-and-take we sometimes get carried away and ask the darndest questions. Occasionally, we get rebuffed with a "no comment" reply. But, more often than not, our subjects are unflinchingly truthful and amazingly upfront with their answers. Here are some of the most enjoyable moments of truth in Lifestyle through the years.

Rosa Rosal

I have two grandsons . . . They're teenagers. They grew up here but they're immigrants. Toni Rose is an American citizen because of her dad, but she grew up here. I gave up my green card. I told them, *kapag nagkagulo dito*, go to the States but leave me behind. This is where I belong and this is where I will die. *Kapag ako namatay, ayoko ng cheche-bureche.* I want the cheapest coffin and then later I want to be cremated. *Ayoko nung may* urn-urn *pa*; throw my ashes at the Red Cross..."

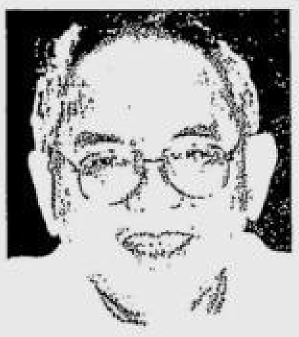
Borgy Manotoc

Does your mom [Imee Marcos] have a say about the girls [you're dating]?

Sometimes. She knows that if I introduce her to someone, it's serious. Then she'll tell me to be careful. "If you get her pregnant, then you're outta here!"

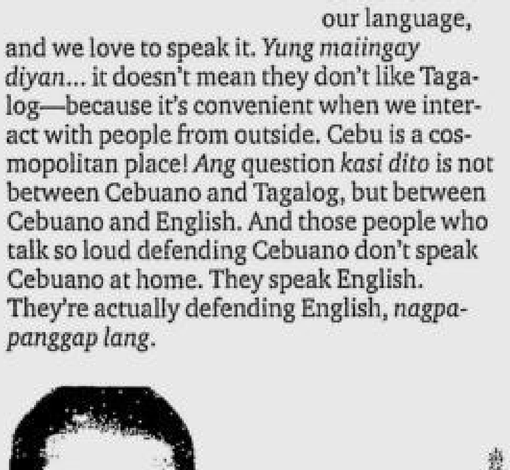
Did she teach you about safe sex?

Yeah, from the beginning. (Laughter)



Dr. Francisco Nemenzo

I'm Cebuano but I don't have a problem with Tagalog. We have problems with blabbermouthed politicians in Cebu. (Laughter) The ordinary Cebuanos are not really averse to having a national language. We Cebuanos love our language, and we love to speak it. *Yung maiingay diyan*... it doesn't mean they don't like Tagalog—because it's convenient when we interact with people from outside. Cebu is a cosmopolitan place! *Ang* question *kasi dito* is not between Cebuano and Tagalog, but between Cebuano and English. And those people who talk so loud defending Cebuano don't speak Cebuano at home. They speak English. They're actually defending English, *nagpapanggap lang*.



Bibeth Orteza

When I was taking a shower before my operation and I was washing my breasts for the last time, I remembered that I was able to breast-feed my kids, one year for each. So *nagamit ko naman talaga nang husto ang susong ito*. But the day before my operation, I was going to the dentist and *manipis yung* T-shirt *ko*. *Sabi ng asawa ko*, "I can see your two nipples." *Sabi ko*, "Today is my last day to have two nipples, let me show them!"

Eraserheads

What do you hate most [about being the Eraserheads]?

Buddy Zabala: The show biz part.

Ely Buendia: The fact that until now we still have to kiss ass most of the time.

Whose ass don't you like kissing?

E: Asses that are not very clean. (Laughter)

All asses are not clean.

B: Some asses pretend to be cleaner than others.

E: We still have a few ambitions in life, like being able to release an international album, which we cannot do unless we kiss...

John Maxwell

Are your kids good leaders?

No, neither one of them is. (Laughter) I mean, they're very good kids, but they're not good leaders. They're doing well—my son's got a home-theater business. But it's not just in the mix. And it's OK.

It's not genetic? (Laughter)

Well, it could be. Both my children are adopted. I think leadership has a genetic link.

Amalia Fuentes

You had heartaches?

Oh yes. Great heartaches also. The greater the love, the greater the heartache.

Did you ever come close to committing

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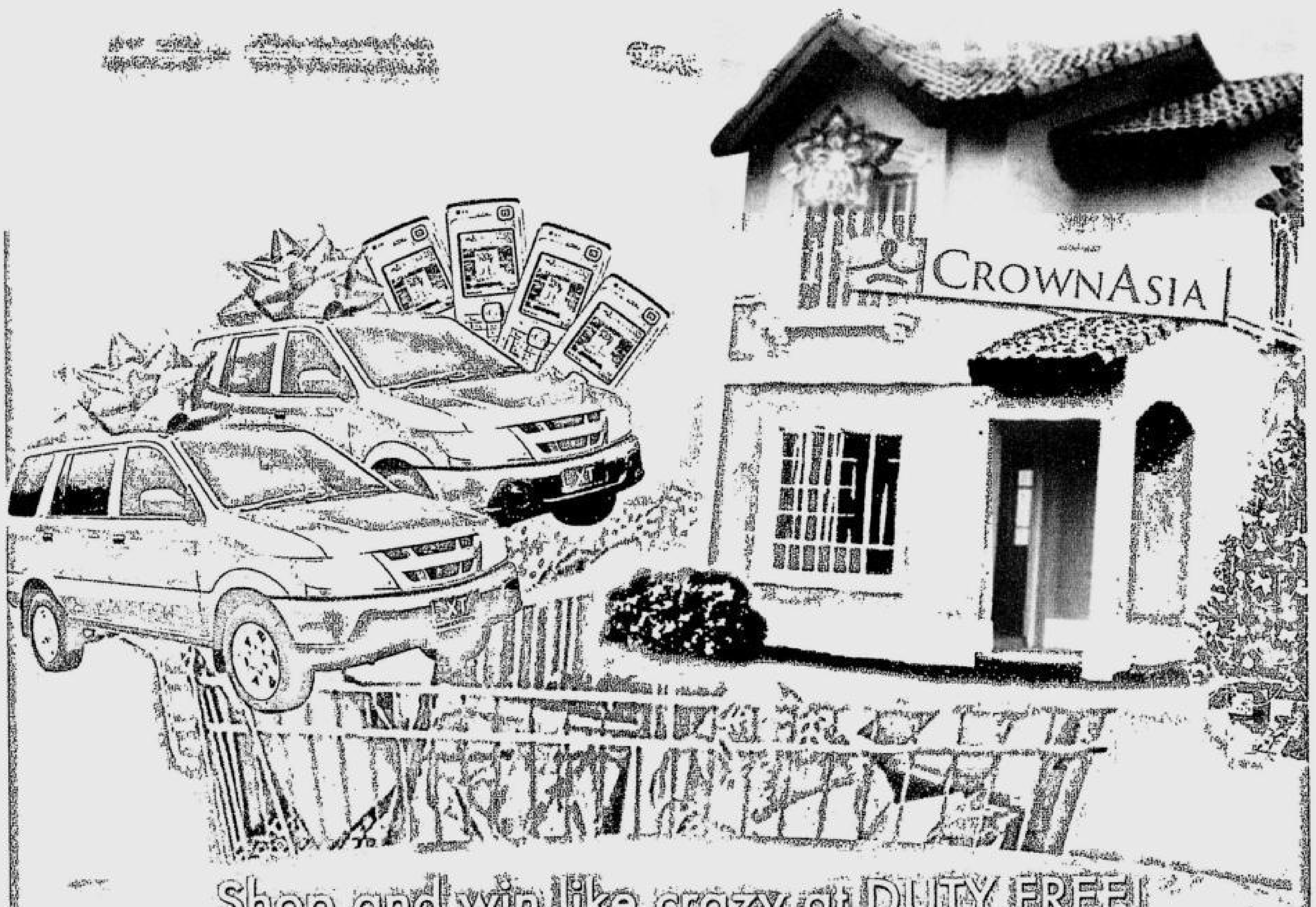

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21 who dared to answer

suicide?

No, never. Come close to killing the other person, yes. If it's not my fault, why should I kill myself? That's stupid, *di ba*?

Luli M. Arroyo

Does [the President] advise you on boys?

She has given up. (Laughter) ... So my mom has been keeping an heirloom piece from my *lola*, my great grandmother, to give to me when I get married. She gave it to me last year, "*kasi kung hihintayin ko pa yun, hindi ko na ito mabibigay sa iyo 'to.*" She gave it to me on my birthday. (Laughter) *So ako yung*, "Yahoo! *Panalo*!" (Laughter)

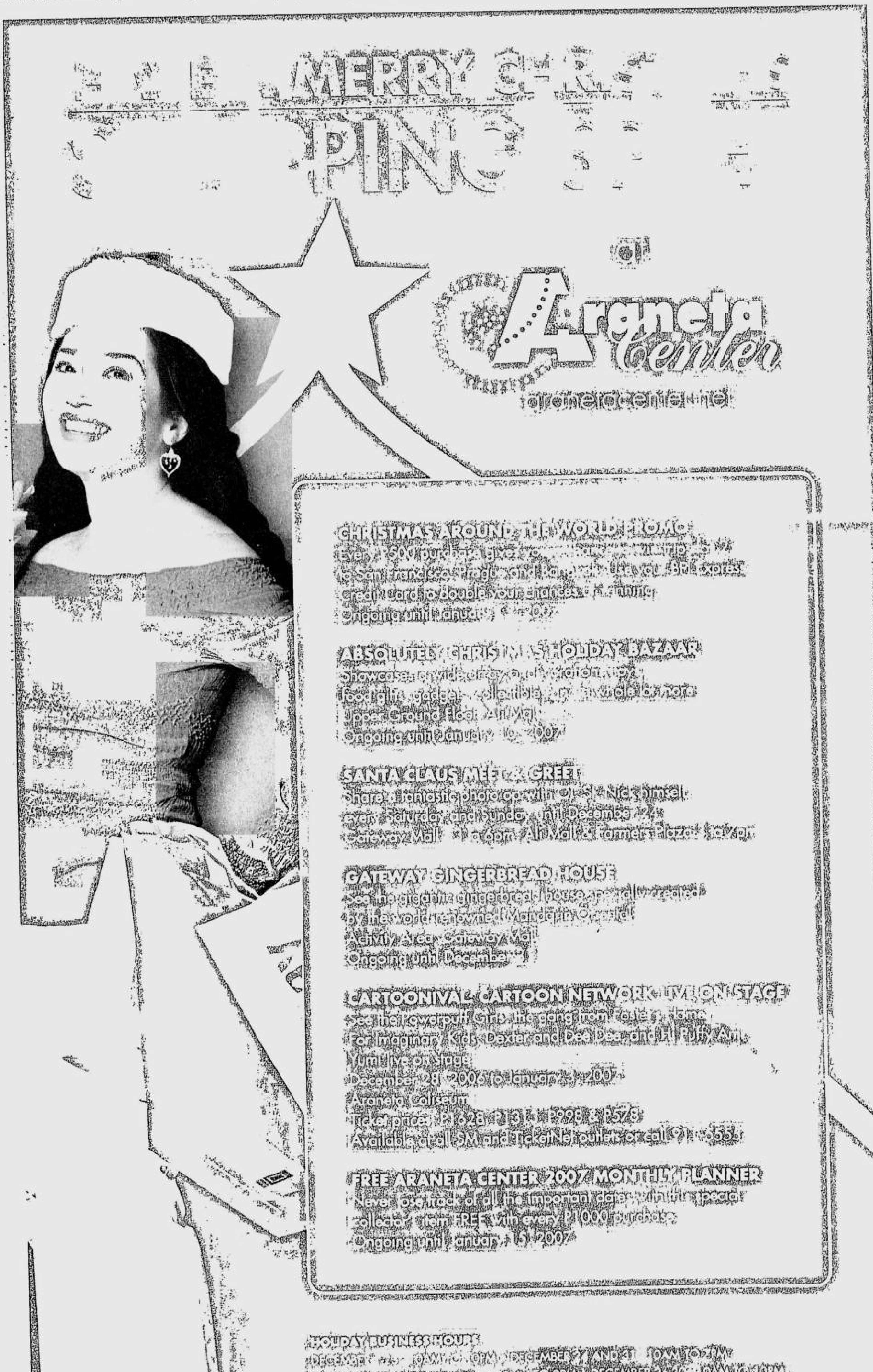
Bienvenido Nebres, S.J.

I think our biggest educational problem is that so many of our students are not getting any kind of decent education.

Joey Reyes

Are you going to make a gay movie?

If I do, it's not gonna be about screaming faggots, but about the Makati gays, the yuppie gays who are even more *marami* than all the bergahitas going around. It's a very painful and lonely life ... You're in the center of culture and social life, yeah, but then ... It's a really, really long life alone. Of course, we all get born and we die alone. But a gay is more alone. *Ako*, ang biggest frustration ko, kids. I realized that I want to have kids. I'm so *inggit* each time I see my old classmates—*ang mga anak teenagers na pala.*



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Mauro Malang Santos

What would you advise nouveau art collectors?

That they should buy what they like, not by name, not by the color of their furniture or the wall. (Laughter) *Na kapag blue 'yung* furniture, blue *din 'yung bibilhing* painting. *Kasi* you live with the piece, you grow with it, so you must at least enjoy it. *Kung magkaroon ng* value *'yan, di* well and good. *Nag*-enjoy *ka na, nagkaroon pa ng* value.

Jaime Cardinal Sin

Don't tell me you get turned on by cleavages, white thighs?

Why not? (Laughs) It is found in human force. And if you say you're not affected, you're a liar. So you have to control yourself—first of all making resolutions early in the morning. This is what you do, you study at night what's your weakness during the day and make an act of contrition. The following morning during your prayer, make a so-called resolution to improve yourself from that particular weakness as help formula. So you can see that every day, you're improving. And the time will come you will become more peaceful, how beautiful. Or else, you will deteriorate, morally speaking.

Deepak Chopra

Has diet something to do with the mind-body?

I don't think so. I think it's all cultural conditioning. The Dalai Lama is not a vegetarian. In Tibet, they only eat meat; there are no vegetables. In Alaska, you feed the Eskimos vegetable and they get a heart attack. (Laughter) Now, I eat a lot of fruits and vegetables. I love seafood. [And vegetables] take away your sexual energy. (Laughter)

Dolphy

Can you honestly say you don't look at other women now?

Tumitingin ako. Hanggang tingin na lang ako. (Laughter) *Di na ako nagnanasa.* (Laughter)

ABA! MAGLALAGAY DIN AKO NG KARATULA DITO!
NO FISHING
HUH! BUTI NA LANG MARAMING KARATULA KAMI!
AY! MALI YATA 'TONG NAILAGAY KO
NO FISHING

Joey de Leon

Have you always been a funny person?

*Hindi nga eh. Asar ako, lalo na pag nagalit ako. Pero nagme-*makeup *ako noong* high school *para makapagpatawa lang sa klase. Pero* once *nagalit ako noon* Grade One *sa isang* classmate *na babae. Sinaksak ko ng lapis 'yung hita. Pinagtawanan kasi ako dahil na u-u ako sa salawal.*

Raul Roco

I have four grandchildren, lovely grandchildren. Did you read the book of Robert Fulghum? In one of his books he wrote about his granddaughter. You should read it. He said there are dolls *na pinaiinom mo* that even urinate; it's messy, it's wet, not like your granddaughter because your granddaughter is always perfect. My grandchildren are perfect. (Laughs)

Sharon Cuneta

Does it [disagreement with husband Sen. Francis Pangilinan] get physical?

Ah, never! Me? You cannot get physical with me! (Laughter) I will shoot you! My father told me when I was younger: "The minute a man lays a hand on you, a finger on you, get out. Just come home." Because it can only get worse *daw*.

How about throwing things?

Sometimes ... *Ay, nangyari yan sa akin. Kasi ganito, ganyan* (pretends to pick up an object). *Ay, huwag ito, mahal, ito na lang*! (Laughter) Because you have to remind yourself, after this *pagsisisihan mo*. But it's not often ... I think it's just venting.

Ryan Cayabyab

I was I think in sixth grade and I was the only one in class who had no books (turns teary-eyed). An aunt of mine, as she was leaving, I asked her if she could give me ... (removes eyeglasses to wipe eyes) P20 because that was all I needed to get three books. She said, "*Wala akong pera.*" (voice cracks, cries again and recovers) ... I didn't realize we were poor until later on.

Haydee Yorac

Why did you change your hair?

I used to travel around the country mostly by helicopter. You know helicopters are open and the wind would blow my hair in all directions. But given the hairstyle I was using at that time, when I got off the helicopter, people didn't know any better whether I had combed my hair or not. (Laughter)

Socorro C. Ramos

What time do you start your day?

Seven. I eat breakfast then I make telephone calls. *Nakalista na kung sino tatawagan ko* the night before *kung hindi malilimutan ko. Tapos bihis na*. I go to the office. I'm there until 6:30 p.m. I go to sleep at 3 a.m. (Laughter)

What do you do until 3 a.m.?

Well, *nagbabasa ng* Inquirer. (Laughter)

Galing mo, Nanay!

Oo, totoo! Inquirer *ang katabi ko! Yun naman talaga ang maganda eh.*

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

How are you as a wife? Are you *pasensyosa, matiisin*?

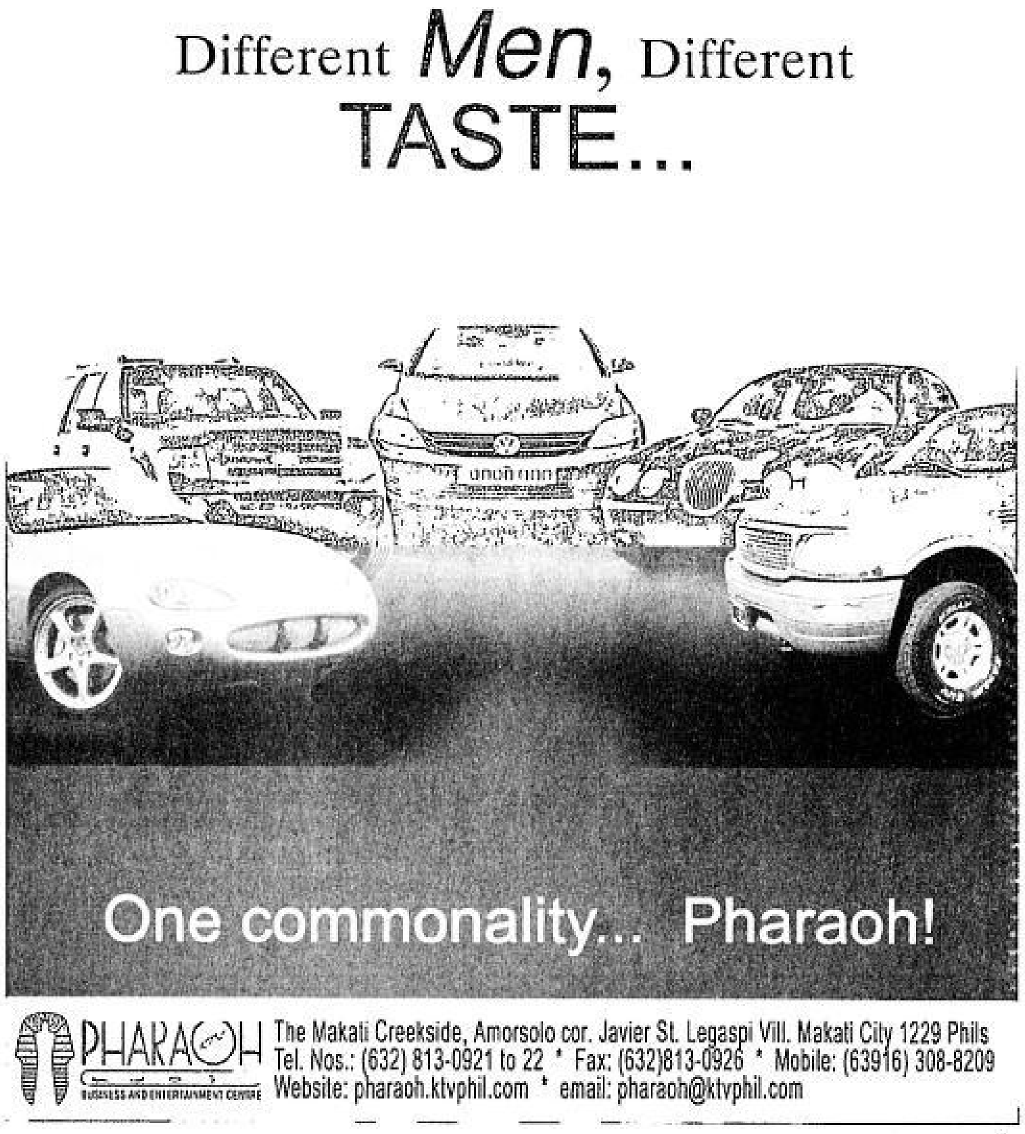
No, no. I'm not a *martir*.

How do you treat your husband if he goes astray?

I get angry.

Has he ever? (Laughter)

The wife is usually the last to know so therefore I cannot vouch for that one. (Laughs)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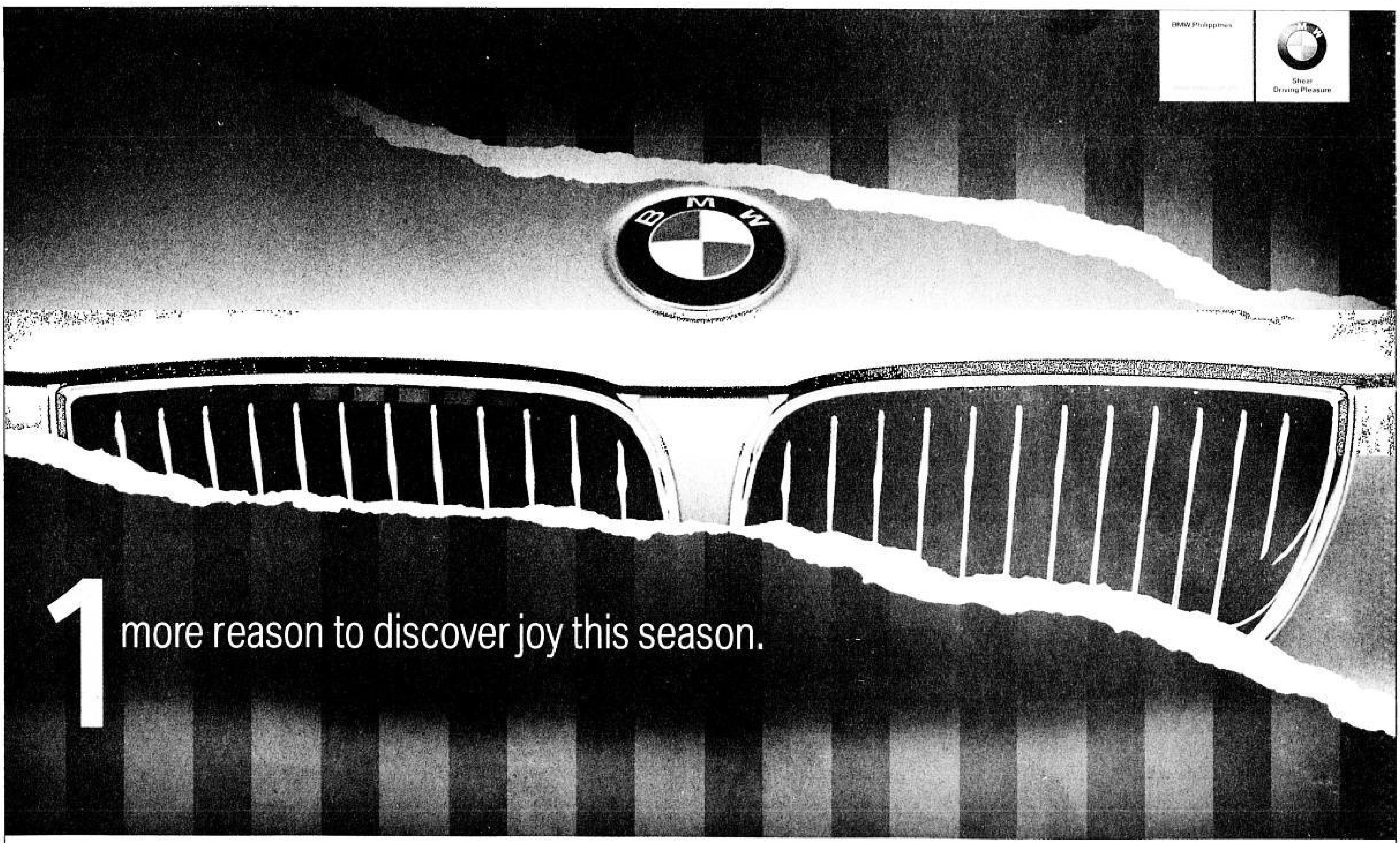
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From seedy pool halls to pantheon of heroes

By Ernesto Gonzales, Roy Luarca, Francis T.J. Ochoa, Jasmine W. Payo

MANNY PACQUIAO is best remembered for a trilogy of spectacular fights against Mexican ring icon Erik Morales. AP

FROM THE BOXING ARENAS smelling of sweat and liniment, to bright-lit basketball courts to seedy billiard halls teeming with money games, Philippine sports found enough heroes to fill INQUIRER sports over the past 21 years.

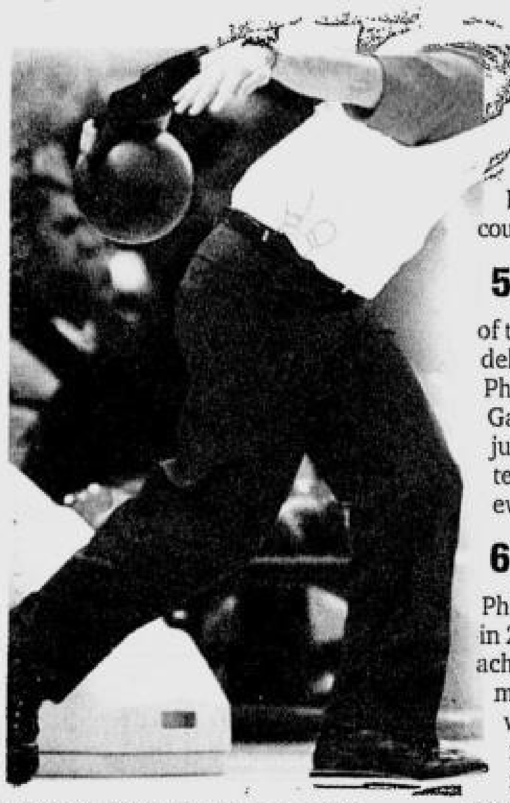
Some of these sports heroes made it to the headlines through the feats they accomplished, while others did so through the impact their achievements had in the lives of Filipinos.

Over that period of time, these athletes were feted by such prestigious bodies, such as the Philippine Sportswriters Association, which honors the year's best athlete based on achievement and impact.

On its 21st year of serving its readers, the INQUIRER Sports staff compiled the 21 top athletes who made the headlines in our pages and briefly presents the achievements with which they were enshrined to this elite list.

1 2005 SEAG PHILIPPINE TEAM

The country ended the year in euphoria. For 10 days in December of 2005, Filipino athletes showed that heart and hard work can carry the Philippines all the way to the top. Team Philippines completed a stirring conquest of the country's first SEAG overall championship with 113 gold medals, 84 silvers and 94 bronzes. The local athletes' triumphs unquestionably gave Filipinos a sense of pride and lifted the nation's sagging spirit.



NEPOMUCENO: Guinness entry

2 RONNIE ALCANO

Ronnie Alcano is now the country's newest sports hero. For topping the 2006 World Pool Championship after teetering from the brink of elimination, the 34-year-old Alcano joined Efren Reyes (Alex Pagulayan represented Canada when he won in 2004) as the only Filipino world champions in billiards.

3 ERIC BUHAIN

A pool star at 15, Eric Buhain claimed the gold in the 400-meter individual medley on his first dip in the 1985 Southeast Asian Games. Six years later, Buhain made waves by clinching six gold medals—two in record-breaking fashion—in the 1991 SEA Games in Manila. His performance earned him the Best Male Athlete award.

4 FRANCISCO BUSTAMANTE

His name is held with the same reverence as Efren "Bata" Reyes. Among Francisco "Django" Bustamante's major conquests are the German and Japan 9-ball Championships. Though grieving from the death of his child, he wound up second in the 2002 World Pool Championship. His partnership with Reyes gave the country the 2006 World Cup of Pool title.

5 MIKEE COJUANGCO-JAWORSKI

A former actress and a mother of two, the wife of Rep. Dodot Jaworski delivered the last of three golds for the Philippines in the 2002 Busan Asian Games by winning the individual show jumping event after leading the RP team to the silver medal in the same event a day earlier.

6 OLIVIA "BONG" COO

The only athlete included in the Philippines 100 Women of the Century in 2000, Coo boasts other enviable achievements. She is the most bemedalled Filipino athlete of all time with 77 regional and international medals, including a record five golds in the Asian Games. A four-time world champion, Coo was inducted into the sport's Hall of Fame in 1993.

7 DOROTHY DELASIN

A daughter of a Filipino couple living in Daly City, Dorothy Delasin earned two PSA Athlete of the Year awards, the first time in 2002 when at 19 she was named the LPGA Rookie of the Year for winning the Giant Eagle Classic, an event she would win again the next year. She won gold in the SEAG (1997) and bronze in the Asian Games (1998).

8 LUISITO ESPINOSA

One of the country's top prizefighters in the '90s, Luisito Espinosa took on the top fighters in two separate divisions and won world titles there. He held the WBA bantamweight crown from 1989 to 1991 and then claimed the WBC featherweight belt from 1995 to 1999.

9 ROBERT JAWORSKI

Robert Jaworski was a by-word in RP basketball. Loved and hated in equal parts—and with equal passion—Jaworski turned Ginebra into the most popular basketball team in the country and steered an all-pro squad to the 1990 Beijing Asiad silver medal. He later won a Senate seat.

10 FRANKIE MIÑOZA

This greenskeeper's son from Bukidnon validated his claim as the country's top golfer by winning the Philippine Open in 1998. Frankie Miñoza was ranked as high as 56th in the world and went on to play in the US Masters and the British Open.

11 ELMA MUROS

Her mouth may outpace her feet, but Elma Muros is definitely as serious as she's genial. Taking over from Lydia de Vega, Muros won the long jump in the SEA Games for a record eight times. Her 13 SEAG gold medals are the most by any Filipino.

REYES

ROSALES

BUHAIN

JAWORSKI

12 PAENG NEPOMUCENO

A six-time world champion, including four World Cup titles, Paeng Nepomuceno is considered the best international bowler ever. A Hall of Famer, he is listed in the Guinness World Records as the youngest World Cup winner at 19 and the only bowler to have won the World Cup in three different decades.

13 MANNY PACQUIAO

It may be hard to remember but Manny Pacquiao was the WBC flyweight champion from 1998 to 1999 and the IBF super bantamweight king from 2001 to 2003. His claim to fame, though, will be the classic battles he waged against Mexican ring gods Marco Antonio Barrera and Erik Morales.

14 ALEX PAGULAYAN

He grew up in Canada but is a pure Filipino. Alex Pagulayan made his countrymen back home proud when, after winning the 2004 World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales, he dedicated his victory to the country and the Filipino people.

15 ALVIN PATRIMONIO

The 1990s basketball scene was dominated by one man—Alvin Patrimonio. As skipper of the Purefoods squad, Patrimonio did what only one other player before him accomplished—win four PBA MVP trophies.

16 EFREN "BATA" REYES

One of the greatest cue artists ever, Efren "Bata" Reyes is known to the world as The "Magician." Already enshrined in the Billiard Congress of America Hall of Fame, Reyes, 52, was named by Time as one of Asia's heroes alongside former President Cory Aquino and INQUIRER founder Eugenia D. Apostol and editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc.

17 JENNIFER ROSALES

After dominating women's golf in the country in the last decade, Jennifer Rosales turned pro in 2000 after topping the US NCAA and finally made her mark in the LPGA in 2004 with a breakthrough victory in the Chick-Fil-A Charity championship.

18 CJ SUAREZ

Christian Jan Suarez became a star in 2003 when he won the AMF World Cup in Honduras. Suarez first rose to fame in 2001 when he was named Youth Bowler of the Year. That same year, he won two gold medals in the Kuala Lumpur SEA Games.

19 EUGENE TORRE

Asia's first grandmaster at age 22, Eugene Torre capped a remarkable career as longtime head of the RP team by leading the country to a record seventh place finish in the 1988 Chess Olympiad in Greece. He reached the World Chess Championship quarterfinals, and his three silver medals on board one in the Olympiad is still unmatched by a Filipino so far.

20 LYDIA DE VEGA

She became a household name in the '80s. Heralded as Asia's fastest woman, Lydia de Vega ran away with two gold medals in the Asian Games and nine in the Southeast Asian Games. De Vega stayed on track to become the country's most accomplished runner after dashing for the gold in the 100-meters in the 1982 Asiad. Four years later, De Vega set an Asiad record by impressively defending her title.

21 ONYOK VELASCO

Perhaps the first time an entire nation stood still to watch a boxing match was when Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco climbed atop the ring in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics hoping to end the country's Olympic gold drought. Bulgarian Daniel Bujilov, however, crushed that hope. Velasco is only the second Filipino silver medalist in Olympic history.

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Top 21 movies of the past 21 years

By the Inquirer Entertainment Staff

THEY'VE GOT the advantage of 21/21 vision.

INQUIRER Entertainment asked six industry leaders, experts in the art of making and enjoying films, to name the 21 best Filipino films in the last 21 years.

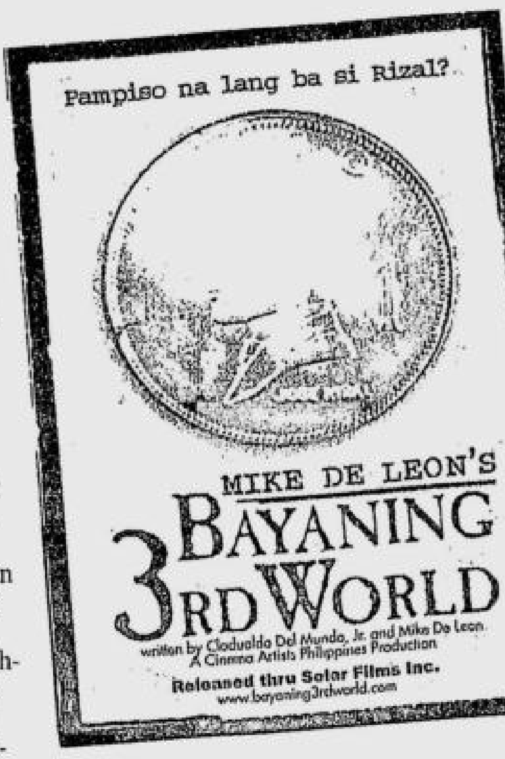
Scriptwriter-director Jose Javier Reyes didn't think twice. He e-mailed his choices with dispatch, but not before pointing out that he had inhibited himself from picking films where his name appeared in the credits, either as writer or director.

Even so, at least three other respondents listed three of Reyes' works—"Batang PX," "Live Show" and "Minsan May Isang Puso."

At first, Boots Anson-Roa, executive director of the Movie Workers' Welfare Foundation, Inc. (Mowelfund), demurred because, she said, she was based in Washington D.C. with her family from 1982 to 1993. But she later relented, realizing that she had, in fact, seen some very important local movies of that period—like the Brocka classics—either during special screenings in the United States or later, on video.

In the end, the panel—practitioners, scholars, critics and, most important, film buffs—came up with a list that is as multifaceted as the Filipino himself.

These movies tell the stories of different kinds of Pinoys—national hero, cancer patient, adulterous bank teller, mourner-for-hire, teen drag queen, *jueteng* bet collector. With courage and tenacity, they tackle issues deemed subversive by the powers-that-be—from abortion to post-Edsa politics, from poverty to feminism.


Pampiso na lang ba si Rizal?
MIKE DE LEON'S BAYANING 3RD WORLD
written by Clodualdo Del Mundo, Jr. and Mike De Leon
A Cinema Artists Philippines Production
Released thru Solar Films Inc.
www.bayaning3rdworld.com

POSTER of Mike de Leon's landmark and highly stylized film on Jose Rizal.

As expected, the names of the late National Artists Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal were consistent entries, but newcomers Mark Meily, Lav Diaz, Mes de Guzman, Auraeus Solito, Cesar Montano and Jeffrey Jeturian also figured prominently in the jurors' list.

New York Times

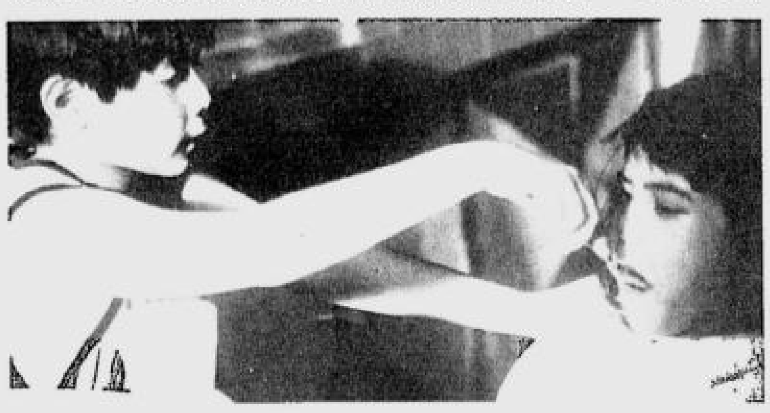
In the New York Times article, critic Dave Kehr hailed Philippine cinema as "financially impoverished but creatively rich" and bemoaned the fact that even master works by Brocka and Bernal had been allowed to deteriorate.

LINO BROCKA at work with Celeste Legaspi and Ronaldo Valdez in the political drama "Gumapang Ka sa Lusak," 1990

"KUBRADOR," 2006

ISHMAEL BERNAL directs "Pinulot Ka Lang sa Lupa" with Maricel Soriano, also his star in "Hinugot sa Langit."

"ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS," 2005


"MAGNIFICO," 2003

He pointed out that, in the Philippines, "a broadly popular cinema of sex and soap opera transformed itself into a vehicle for strong social commentary ... a political force to be reckoned with."

As such, he underscored the importance of not just celebrating, but preserving these films.

Kehr declared: "This body of work belongs not only to the history of popular art but also to the history of a resilient, heroic, admirable people."

"BABAE SA BREAKWATER," 2003

The Top 21

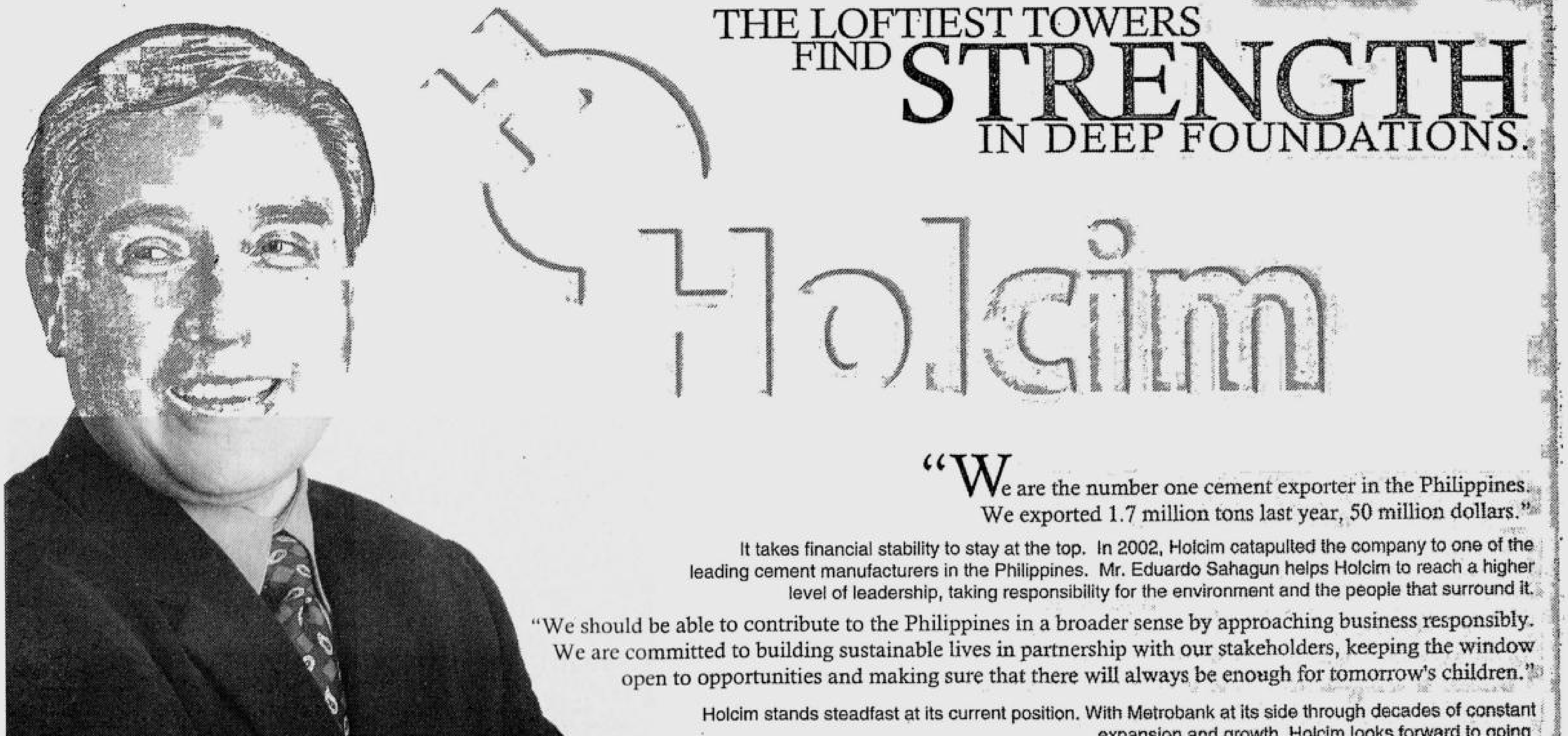
1) "Kapit sa Patalim: Bayan Ko" by Lino Brocka, 1985 (4 votes)
2) "Hinugot sa Langit," Ishmael Bernal, 1985 (4)
3) "Orapronobis: Fight for Us," Brocka, 1989 (5)
4) "Itanong Mo sa Buwan," Chito Roño, 1988 (3)
5) "Gumapang Ka sa Lusak," Brocka, 1990 (5)
6) "Segurista," Tikoy Aguiluz, 1996 (4)
7) "Jose Rizal," Marilou Diaz-Abaya, 1998 (3)
8) "Bata, Bata Paano Ka Ginawa," Roño 1998, (5)
9) "Babae sa Bubungang Lata," Mario O'Hara, 1998 (3)
10) "Bayaning Third World," Mike de Leon, 1999 (6)
11) "Pila Balde," Jeffrey Jeturian, 1999 (3)
12) "Tanging Yaman," Laurice Guillen, 2000 (3)
13) "Dekada '70," Roño, 2002 (3)
14) "Mga Munting Tinig," Gil Portes, 2002, (3)
15) "Babae sa Breakwater," O'Hara, 2003, (3)
16) "Magnifico," Maryo J. de los Reyes, 2003, (6)
17) "Crying Ladies," Mark Meily, 2003, (4)
18) "Panaghoy sa Suba," Cesar Montano, 2004 (5)
190 "La Visa Loca," Meily, 2005 (3)
20) "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," Auraeus Solito, 2005 (5)
21) "Kubrador," Jeturian, 2006 (4)

How they voted:

JOSE JAVIER REYES
Scriptwriter-director

1) "Hinugot sa Langit," Bernal, 1985
2) "Orapronobis: Fight for Us," Brocka, 1989
3) "Itanong Mo sa Buwan," Roño, 1988
4) "Gumapang Ka sa Lusak," Brocka, 1990
5) "The Fatima Buen Story," O'Hara, 1994
6) "Sana Maulit Muli," Olivia Lamasan, 1995
7) "Madrasta," Lamasan, 1996
8) "Serafin Geronimo: Ang Kriminal ng Barrio Concepcion," Lav Diaz, 1998
9) "Sana Pagibig Na," Jeturian, 1998
10) "Babae sa Bubungang Lata," O'Hara, 1998
11) "Ang Lalake sa Buhay ni Selya," Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, 1998
12) "Bayaning Third World," De Leon, 1999

THE PAST 21/ O3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"SANA PAG-IBIG NA," 1998

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THERE ARE scams big and small in local show biz, but this one must be the most brazen. In the aftermath of the Manila Film Festival 1994 awards-snatching mishap, Ruffa Gutierrez, summoned to the Manila City Hall for an inquiry, screams her way through a posse of policemen and paparazzi. Robin Padilla, right, just recovering from a major surgery but ever the gallant leading man/escort, tries to pull her away. Reminder to the forgetful public: All the major players in the scandal managed to get back on their feet, career-wise, except for actor Gabby Concepcion, who named his manager Lolit Solis as a conspirator, and Nanette Medved, who decided to give up the biz altogether.

The past 21 years' top 21 movies

From page O1

13) "Pila Balde," Jeturian, 1999
14) "Bulaklak ng Maynila," Joel Lamangan, 1999
15) "Sa Paraiso ni Efren," De los Reyes, 1999
16) "Hubog," Lamangan, 2001
17) "La Vida Rosa," Roño, 2001
18) "Magnifico," De los Reyes, 2003
19) "Crying Ladies," Meily, 2003
20) "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," Solito, 2005
21) "Kubrador," Jeturian, 2006

LITO ZULUETA
Chair, Gawad Urian 2005

1) "Kapit sa Patalim: Bayan Ko," Brocka, 1985
2) "Pahiram ng Isang Umaga," Bernal, 1989
3) "Gumapang Ka sa Lusak," Brocka, 1990
4) "Segurista," Tikoy Aguiluz, 1996
5) "Milagros," Marilou Diaz-Abaya, 1997
6) "Bata, Bata Paano Ka Ginawa," Roño, 1998
7) "Jose Rizal," Abaya, 1998
8) "Bayaning Third World," De Leon, 1999
9) "Saranggola," Portes, 1999
10) "Tanging Yaman," Guillen, 2000
11) "Batang West Side," Diaz, 2001
12) "Live Show," Reyes, 2001
13) "Mga Munting Tinig," Portes, 2002
14) "Magnifico," De los Reyes, 2003
15) "Babae sa Breakwater," O'Hara, 2003
16) "Bridal Shower," Jeturian, 2003
17) "Panaghoy sa Suba," Montano, 2004
18) "Milan," Lamasan, 2004
19) "Ebolusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino" by Diaz, 2004
20) "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," Solito, 2005
21) "Kubrador" Jeturian, 2006

ED INSTRELLA
Talent manager/producer

1) "Kapit sa Patalim: Bayan Ko," Brocka, 1985
2) "Hinugot sa Langit," Bernal, 1985
3) "Takaw Tukso," William Pascual, 1986
4) "Private Show," Roño, 1986
5) "Itanong Mo sa Buwan," Roño, 1988
6) "Gumapang Ka sa Lusak," Brocka, 1990
7) "Bayani," Raymond Red, 1992
8) "The Fatima Buen Story," O'Hara, 1994
9) "Segurista," Aguiluz, 1996
10) "Babae sa Bubungang Lata," O'Hara, 1998
11) "Bata, Bata Paano Ka Ginawa," Roño, 1998
12) "Sisa," O'Hara, 1998
13) "Pila Balde," Jeturian, 1999
14) "Minsan May Isang Puso," Reyes, 2001
15) "Batang West Side," Diaz, 2001
16) "Magnifico," De los Reyes, 2003
17) "Babae sa Breakwater," O'Hara, 2003
18) "Bridal Shower," Jeturian, 2003
19) "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," Solito, 2005
20) "Ang Daan Patungong Kalimugtong," Mes de Guzman, 2005
21) "Kubrador," Jeturian, 2006

NICK DEOCAMPO
Director, Mowelfund Film Institute

1) "Hinugot sa Langit," Bernal, 1985
2) "Orapronobis: Fight for Us," Brocka, 1989
3) "Virgin Forest," Peque Gallaga, 1985
4) "Bituing Walang Ningning," Emmanuel H. Borlaza, 1985
5) "Scorpio Nights," Gallaga, 1985
6) "Paradise Inn," Celso Ad. Castillo, 1985
7) "Bagong Hari," O'Hara, 1986
8) "Private Show," Roño, 1986
9) "Hari sa Hari, Lahi sa Lahi," Eddie Romero, 1987
10) "Macho Dancer," Brocka, 1989
11) "Sa Kuko ng Agila," Augusto Buenaventura, 1989
12) "Hihintayin Kita sa Langit," Siguion-Reyna, 1991
13) "The Flor Contemplacion Story," Lamangan, 1995
14) "Batang PX," Reyes, 1997
15) "Jose Rizal," Abaya, 1998
16) "Anak," Rory Quintos, 2000
17) "Abakada Ina," Eddie Garcia, 2001
18) "Mga Munting Tinig," Portes, 2002
19) "Magnifico," De los Reyes, 2003
20) "Crying Ladies," Meily, 2003
21) "Panaghoy sa Suba," Montano, 2004

BOOTS ANSON-ROA
Mowelfund executive director

1) "Kapit Patalim: Bayan Ko," Brocka, 1985
2) "Orapronobis: Fight for Us," Brocka, 1989
3) "Ikaw Pa Lang ang Minahal," Siguion-Reyna, 1992
4) "Segurista," Aguiluz, 1996
5) "Milagros," Abaya, 1997
6) "Bata, Bata Paano Ka Ginawa," Roño, 1998
7) "Bayaning Third World," De Leon, 1999
8) "Bulaklak ng Maynila," Lamangan, 1999
9) "Deathrow," Lamangan, 2000
10) "Tanging Yaman," Guillen, 2000
11) "Bagong Buwan," Abaya, 2001
12) "Dekada '70," Roño, 2002
13) "Magnifico," De los Reyes, 2003

TOP 21 MOVIES/ O4

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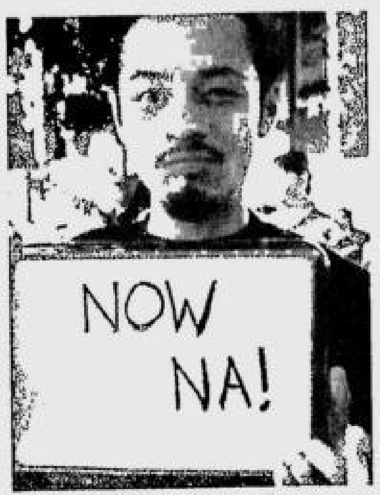
3 WARRANTY

How the youth works on being proud and being Filipino

By Pam Pastor

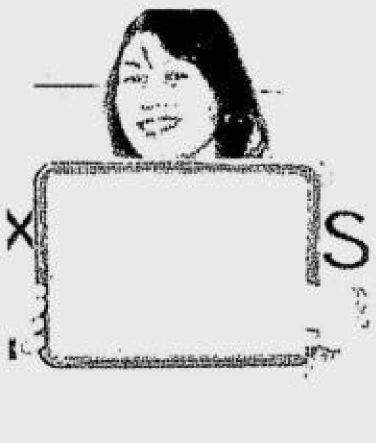
GANG BADOY, founder, Rock Ed Philippines



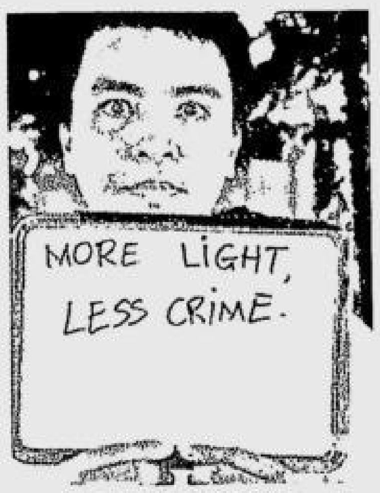
NIX PUNO, bass guitarist, Twisted Halo

DISIPLINA
LANG.
PWEDE?

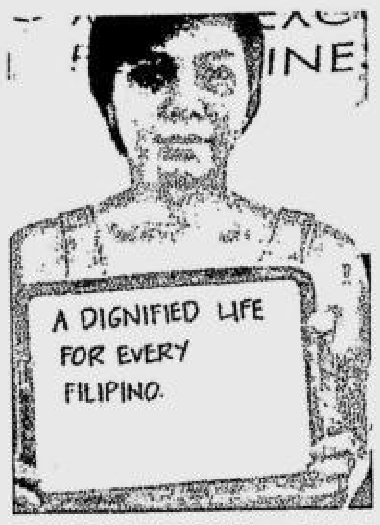
MARCUS NADA, synths and samplers, Bagetsafonik



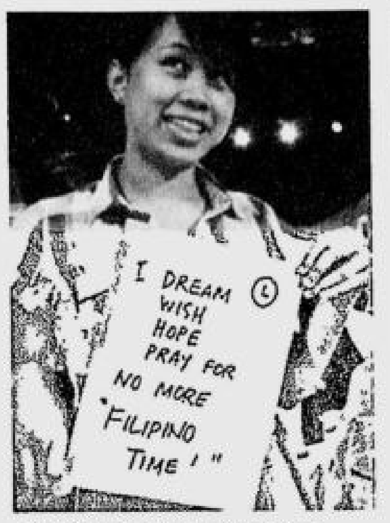
AIA DE LEON, vocals, Imago.



BUDDY ZABALA, bass guitarist, The Dawn/Cambio



AGNES NONOG, NGO coordinator



ANDY AGUIRRE, NU107 DJ

I WISH
THE PHILIPPINES
WOULD TAKE CARE
OF ITS CHILDREN

MIGGY CHAVEZ, vocals, Chicosci

1. THEY ARE ROCKING SOCIETY through alternative education. By using music, arts, photography, sports, fashion, graphic design, literature, events and more, **Rock Ed Philippines** is educating the youth and getting them involved in critical thinking and socio-civic realities.

With the tagline "No more excuses!" the young volunteers of Rock Ed Philippines believe that poverty must end now.

2. They have made national pride their mission. Founded by young nationalistic Filipinos, the **Yabang Pinoy Campaign** wants to unite Filipinos in believing in themselves and other Pinoys. Supporters of the campaign wear a braided abaca band around their wrists. According to them, "since abaca is the strongest natural fiber and unique to the Philippines, it aims to constantly remind Filipinos that we are tough, resilient and exceptional."

3. They are turning wishes of terminally ill children into reality. **Make-A-Wish Foundation**, which began in Arizona in 1980, has been making sick kids in the Philippines happy since 1999. Young volunteers of the organization have made all kinds of dreams come true—from celebrity encounters and birthday parties to new toys and trips to the amusement park.

4. They have embraced the importance of volunteerism. **Hands On Manila**, a nonprofit organization that has been responsible for recruiting, educating and coordinating a network of volunteers for diverse community projects, can attest to this fact. "Last year, we had around 4,000 volunteers and a majority of them fall into the 23 to 26 age group," said Abigail Pacquing, Hands On Manila's resource mobilization manager.

5. They are building homes for people. By giving their time and energy to projects like **Gawad Kalinga** and **Habitat for Humanity's Youth Build**, young people are able to give the valuable gift of shelter to different Filipino families.

6. They are protecting the earth. Whether it's through recycling programs in their schools or by supporting groups like **Greenpeace**, young people know that taking care of the environment is not just good, it's necessary.

7. They are there for their peers. **The Foundation for Adolescent Development** (FAD) believes in peer-to-peer counseling. Because a majority of people who call the Dial-A-Friend hotlines are adolescents, a majority of their trained counselors are adolescents as well. **Dial-A-Friend** counselors receive an average of 150 calls a week from young people who want to talk to them about boy-girl relationships, parents, self-esteem, sexual identity, substance abuse, career-planning and more. FAD has also introduced "**E-mail A Friend**" for people who are more confident about sharing their problems online.

8. They use their training for good. Many young doctors, nurses and dentists provide free healthcare during medical and dental missions. They travel far and wide—sometimes even crossing mountains on foot—to get to patients who need their care and expertise.

9. They are making their opinion count. Young people are rocking the vote and letting their choice be known.

10. They are overcoming challenges and achieving greatness. For many young people, disability is not a dead end, it's a hurdle to jump over. **Roselle Ambubuyog** graduated summa cum laude from the Ateneo de Manila University despite being blind. Today, she continues to devote her time to developing products for the blind. **Peter Jonas David** has lived with cerebral palsy all his life but he has refused to let it stop him from living a normal life. Jonas, who graduated from the University of the Philippines and has a passion for philosophy and studying, has become an inspiration for a lot of people.

11. They are kind to animals. Young people have shown heavy support for the **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) and Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)**. Many of them have given new homes to animals from PAWS Animal Rehabilitation Center, the first real animal shelter in the country.

12. They work not just for themselves. Young professionals have given their share to **Children's Hour**, a fundraising organization that allows individuals and companies to donate one hour's worth of earnings to be used in programs for marginalized Filipino children.

13. They are using their voice. Through statement tees, articles and even their own blogs, young people have found their voice and are using it to make a stand on issues that are important to them.

14. They are fighting for equality. They march during the gay pride parade, they speak up when women are wronged. Young people believe in equality—and in doing what they can to make it a reality.

15. They start early. Young people refuse to let age stop them from achieving great things. They are making their mark on the world early in various fields including art, sports, fashion, business, technology and more.

16. They respond quickly. When a call for help is heard, young people answer fast—and with gusto. This has been seen in previous relief efforts—during the Guimaras oil spill and the aftermath of Typhoons "Milenyo" and "Reming."

17. They support local art. Just ask **Team Manila** and musicians like **Bamboo**, **Rivermaya**, **Kamikazee** and **Parokya ni Edgar**.

18. They thrive in independence. Young artists don't wait for big companies to see their talent—they just share it with the world. Greatness is born in the indie culture. We have enjoyed movies like "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" and bands like Sound and UrbanDub because young people dared.

19. They don't stop at just one thing. The members of the slash generation are champion multi-taskers. It isn't uncommon for one person to be wearing many hats. Just like Kate Torralba, who is a fashion designer slash musician slash businesswoman slash writer.

20. They value their roots. Young Filipinos, like Apl De Ap and David the Coconuter, did not turn their backs on their homeland despite growing up abroad.

21. They do not fear change.

Top 21 movies the past 21 years

From page O3

14) "Crying Ladies," Meily, 2003
15) "Minsan Pa," Jeturian, 2004
16) "Aishite Imasu (Mahal Kita) 1941," Lamangan, 2004
17) "Panaghoy sa Suba," Montano, 2004
18) "La Visa Loca," Meily, 2005
19) "Blue Moon," Lamangan, 2005
20) "Dubai," Quintos, 2005
21) "Moments of Love," Mark Reyes, 2006

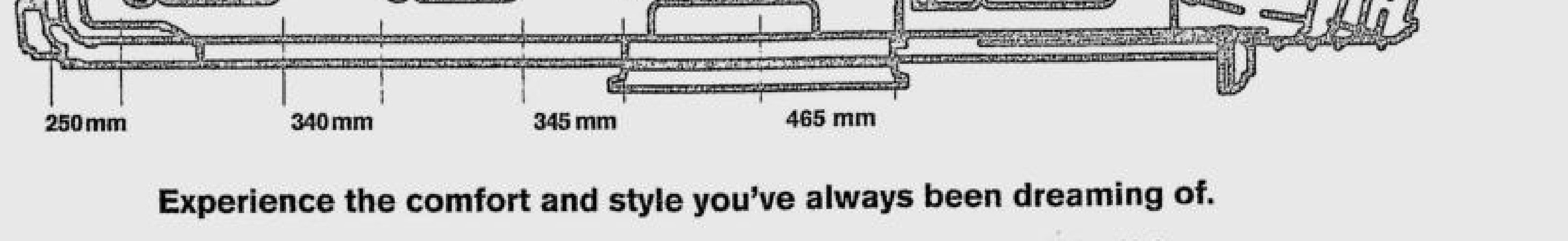
NESTOR TORRE

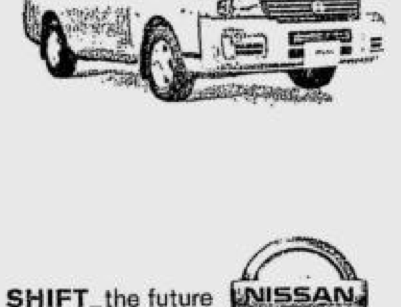
INQUIRER columnist

1) "Hinugot sa Langit," Bernal, 1985
2) "Unfaithful Wife," Gallaga, 1986
3) "Tagos ng Dugo," De los Reyes, 1987
4) "Orapronobis: Fight for Us," Brocka, 1989
5) "Gumapang Ka sa Lusak," Brocka, 1990
6) "Mulanay," Portes, 1996
7) "Segurista," Aguiluz, 1996
8) "Bata, Bata Paano Ka Ginawa," Roño, 1998
9) "Jose Rizal," Abaya, 1998
10) "Bayaning Third World," De Leon, 1999
11) "Anak," Quintos, 2000
12) "Deathrow," Lamangan, 2000
13) "Tanging Yaman," Guillen, 2000
14) "Tuhog," Jeturian, 2001
15) "Bagong Buwan," Abaya, 2001
16) "Dekada '70," Roño, 2002
17) "Milan," Lamasan, 2004
18) "Santa Santita," Guillen, 2004
19) "Panaghoy sa Suba," Montano, 2004
20) "La Visa Loca," Meily, 2005
21) "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," Solito, 2005

THE ENTERTAINMENT STAFF

1) "Kapit sa Patalim: Bayan Ko," Brocka, 1985
2) "Paradise Inn," Castillo, 1985
3) "Orapronobis: Fight for Us," Brocka, 1989
4) "Itanong Mo sa Buwan," Roño, 1988
5) "Gumapang Ka sa Lusak," Brocka, 1990
6) "Pusong Mamon," Lamangan, 1998
7) "Bata, Bata Paano Ka Ginawa," Roño, 1998
8) "Babae sa Bubungang Lata," O'Hara, 1998
9) "Bayaning Third World," De Leon, 1999
10) "Pila Balde," Jeturian, 1999
11) "Live Show," Reyes, 2001
12) "Mga Munting Tinig," Portes, 2002
13) "Dekada '70," Roño, 2002
14) "Babae sa Breakwater," O'Hara, 2003
15) "Magnifico," De los Reyes, 2003
16) "Crying Ladies," Meily, 2003
17) "Panaghoy sa Suba," Montano, 2004
18) "La Visa Loca," Meily, 2005
19) "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," Solito, 2005
20) "Ang Daan Patungong Kalimugtong," De Guzman, 2005
21) "Kubrador," Jeturian, 2006





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Because they dared

ON DEC. 6, THE Philippine Daily Inquirer honored 124 of its employees who have stayed on with the paper through the years and helped make it the No. 1 newspaper in the country.

A total of 63 men and women were lauded for sticking it out with PDI from its difficult infancy 20 years ago. Eleven were cited for 15 years of their valuable service.

Also, 26 were recognized for giving 10 years of their lives to the INQUIRER, and 24 for sharing their time and talent to the paper for five years.

HOORAY! PDI chair Marixi R. Prieto and president Sandy P. Romualdez with the 20-year awardees.

RUDY ESPERAS

20-year awardees

1. Santiago, Jose P.
Account Executive
2. Fellizar, Rogelio P.
Fieldman
3. Yuson, Jessie L.
Photographer
4. Dela Cruz, Ma. Lourdes S.
Customer Service Representative
5. Esplanada, Jerry E.
Reporter 3
6. Tamanu, Romulo A.
Driver
7. Bojo, Jovino G.
Driver
8. Dela Vega, Margarita P.
Subsidiary Section Head
9. Diaz, Lourdes C.
Sales Manager
10. Tabaranza, Liwayway F.
Branch Manager
11. Medina, Patria L.
Account Executive
12. Bergonia, Antonio S.
Asst. National Editor
13. Anicete, Hilario L.
Pre-press Specialist
14. Ramos, Jaime C.
Credit & Collection Manager

VERGARA

15. Vergara, Alexander Y.
Reporter 3
16. Doyo, Ceres P.
Reporter 3

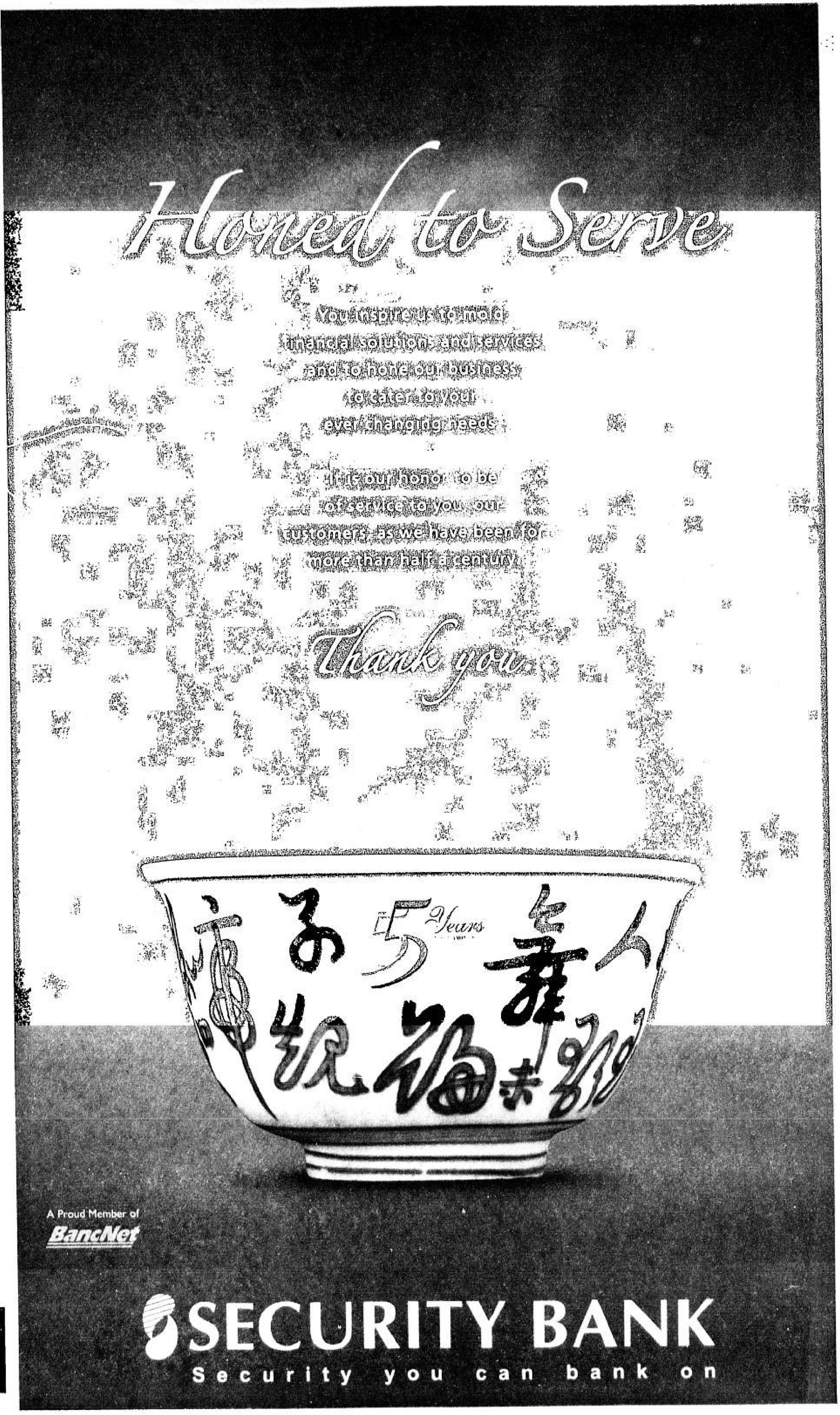
SEE

17. See, Anna Conchita Q.
Graphics Designer
18. Whitaker, Sonia T.
Treasury Head
19. Gregorio, Remedios A.
Library Section Head
20. Gatdula, Arnold B.
Account Executive
21. Escueta, Evelyn B.
Accounting Head
22. Gomez, Chona R.
Collection Assistant
23. Andrade, Augusto N.
Audit Supervisor

VALENZUELA

24. Valenzuela, Ramon L.
Chief Dispatcher
25. Canlas, Rebecca G.
Billing Section Head
26. Goyagoy, Pacita T.
Secretary to the Chairman
27. Badocdoc, Genelito C.
Materials Coordinator
28. Rabanal, Ricardo T.
Cash Section Head
29. Lirio, Gerry C.
Chief, PDI Investigative Team
30. Aclan, Margarito
Cashier
31. Santos, Willie M.
Collector
32. Cruz, Reynaldo G.
Assistant Desk Manager
33. Rivera, Carlito A.
Office Services Head
34. Trinidad, Ricardo A.
Columnist
35. Rivera, Nancy D.
Collection Assistant
36. Libre, Raul J.
Shipping Assistant
37. Chanco, Manuel IV R.
Logistics Manager
38. Alterado, Nilo A.
Credit & Collection Assistant
39. Good, Belinda B.
Branch Manager
40. Antonio, Fabian N.
Collector
41. Paurom, Nilo B.
Chief, Day Desk
42. Tabinas, Rolando O.
Driver
43. Limbo, Imelda B.
Branch Manager
44. Garces, Rodante C.
Collection Section Head
45. Mendoza, Alfonso S.
Sports Columnist
46. Arguel, Mary June R.
Actg. Asst.–CIR Receivables
47. Millare, Emelita R.
Purchasing Assistant
48. Perez, Celita E.
Compensation Analyst
49. Dela Vega, Luis III F.
Editor in Chief, Inquirer Libre
50. Olarte, Felipe R.
VP-Advertising
51. Margallo, Roger L.
Photographer
52. Mangawang, Cesar D.
Special Sections Editor
53. Langahin, Renato M.
Business Development Officer
54. Guevarra, Fernando P.
Cashier
55. Baltazar, Bienvenido B.
Circulation Sales Mgr
56. Villareal Jose H.
Vice President Finance
57. Cristuta, Bobby C.
General Services Head
58. Espino, Margarita Q.
Business Features Editor
59. Pascual, Perlita G.
Account Executive
60. Reinoso, Renato R.
SVP-Sales/Marketing
61. Lee, Restituto B.
Fieldman
62. Aguila, Francisco N.
Credit & Collection Asst.
63. Peñales, Grace C.
Account Executive

CRISTUTA



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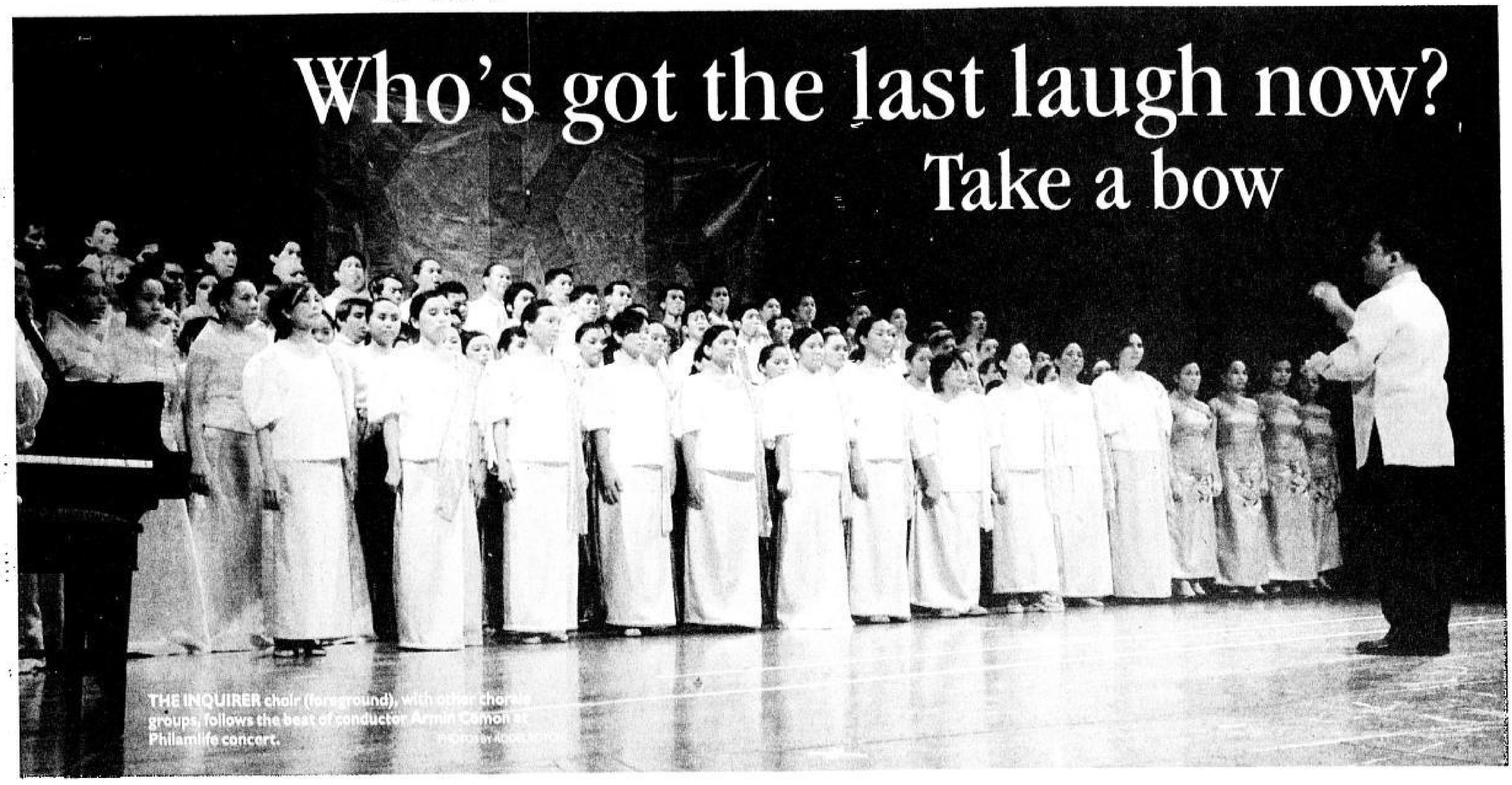
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

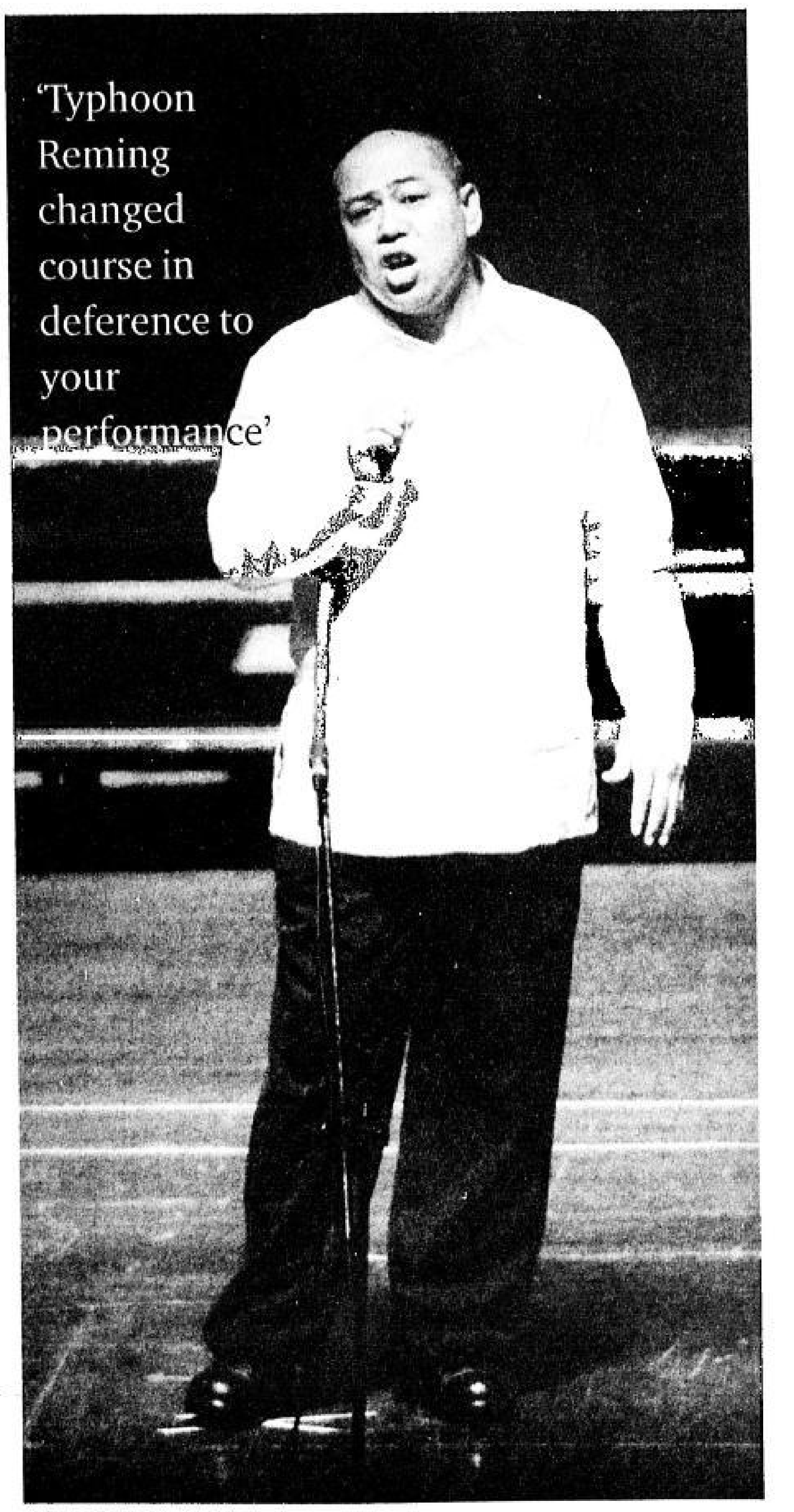
Who's got the last laugh now?

Take a bow



THE INQUIRER choir (foreground), with other chorale groups, follows the beat of conductor Armin Camon at Philamlife concert. PHOTOS BY [illegible]

'Typhoon Reming changed course in deference to your performance'



EDITORIAL'S Rolly Abad gets to go solo.

By Ester G. Dipasupil
Metro Editor

THEY ALL SAID IT couldn't be done.

But there we were, all 16 of us (one backed out at the last minute) plus four "extra hands," on center stage at the Philamlife auditorium on Nov. 30—in the forefront, in the middle, or at the tail end—depending on how the weather bureau saw it, of a brewing supertyphoon that promised more havoc than its predecessor.

Ten minutes before we got up the stage, the Philippine Daily Inquirer Singers got a terse text message from the managing editor that read: "We're coming out with a story on your performance. Suggested head: PDI Singers take Manila by storm."

And seven minutes before our first number, Angge Goloy, a dear friend and PDI contributor, sent me this message: "Typhoon Reming changed course in deference to your performance."

Well, we didn't take Manila by storm. (If so, that would have been our banner story!)

But Supertyphoon "Reming" did skirt Metro Manila, prompting an office joker to say that a confrontation between "Reming" and the PDI Singers would have been a major disaster! (To paraphrase another song, when an irresistible force meets an immovable object, something's got to give).

The rains didn't come, thank God, else the anticipated downpour the following day would have been attributed to us!

So we survived.

We did the unthinkable. We actually got up on stage in front of a paying audience, got over the bad jokes, ignored the endless teasing. But before that, we worked out conflicting schedules, straightened up, practiced, sang our lungs out, and delivered.

Four months ago, a casual conversation with ESDC's Rachel Cucio led to the discovery that there was P30,000 left over in their kitty from projects that had already taken off. Why not use the money to revive the PDI choir, I asked. Rachel immediately said yes, but added that it would only be viable if we would be able to recruit 10 people to join the group.

A month later, Rachel announced that 20 had signed up, told me to look for a choir master, and to schedule the singing sessions soon. The catch: We had to perform at the PDI December celebrations, barely three months away.

They all laughed at
Christopher Columbus
When he said the world was
round.
They all laughed when Edison
recorded sound.
They all laughed at Wilbur and
his brother
When he said that man could fly.

They all laughed at Rockefeller
Center
Now they're fighting to get in.
They all laughed at Whitney
and his cotton gin
They all laughed at Fulton and
his steamboat
Hershey and his chocolate bar.

They all said we'd never get
together
But let's all take a bow
Who's got the last laugh
Let's at the past laugh
Who's got the last laugh now.

Excerpts from George Gershwin's *"They All Laughed"*

Composer Jerry Dadap, my old choir master, was my number one choice for the job. The University of the Philippines College of Music- educated Jerry leads the renowned Andres Bonifacio Choir, a 23-year-old choral group whose specialty is singing an all-Filipino repertoire of patriotic/nationalist songs. He has an impressive background that includes writing compositions for the rondalla, zarzuela, opera, hymns and choral cycles.

I wasn't surprised when I saw Ruben Alabastro's name heading the list of recruits. Ruben and I were with Felipe de Leon Jr.'s Media Singers in the late '80s, singing at anti-Marcos rallies, at wakes for fallen leaders, and even at Joey Nolasco's wedding, an event the managing editor would rather forget (the singing, not the wedding!) Emmie Velarde and Leti Boniol (Editorial) were waylaid into joining, together with Teena Montevirgen, a true believer in the joys of chorale music, being a church choir member for the last 21 years, and Leah Makabenta (Editorial), who showed up on the first day of practice on Aug. 26, along with Cyril Bonabente (Research). The others started trickling in after word got around that we were looking for members.

With the numbers fluctuating (from the initial 20 who signed up, only 17 persisted), there were days when only the loyal four (Ruben, Bayani San Diego Jr., (Entertainment), Emman Cena (EPA) and Amadis Ma. Guerrero, PDI contributor), showed up for practice (for the male parts), but help came with late arrivals Rolly Abad (Editorial), Aries Espinosa (Supplements) and Edwin Bacasmas (Photo), who later dropped out because of a heavy workload. Ruben not only sang with gusto but was very active in recruiting Annie Espelita (Clinic), and the girls from the EPA pool, Rissa Camongol, Frances Gumapac, Lilie Lazaro and Me-ann Ayos.

"Embedded" guides from the Andres Bonifacio Choir, Erick Borlaza, Henry Gabitan, Melody Babula and Grace Galang gave the group pointers and boosted the capabilities of all sections (alto, soprano, bass, tenor). In the rigid rehearsals for three months, the group, perennially ribbed for singing songs "circa 1890s" or pieces that were "hopelessly dated ("19-forgotten"), vocalized, learned bits of Philippine history from Jerry, discovered the origin of famous Filipino love songs, and endured weekends of a pizza and coffee diet donated by generous music lovers.

On its first month of rehearsals, Jerry surprised the group by announcing that we would join five other choirs in a concert honoring working class hero Andres Bonifacio on Nov. 30 at the Philamlife. Although many in the group had previous experiences singing in school or church choirs, many balked at the idea and considered it premature to participate in an event that included more seasoned performers (one choir, was a winner in an international competition). But Jerry said we could do it.

And the PDI Singers did it—not only once, but twice.

A day after the Philamlife performance on Nov .30, people were asking how the group fared. I had a standard reply: "Well, we only got a standing ovation—when we sang the National Anthem."

On Dec. 6, the group (Ruben gave us a new name for the occasion: The Inchoirer, the chorale that dared to sing) again performed at the Employees Service Awards program held at the College of St. Benilde Hotel. Singing before an obviously hometown crowd, the choir got wild cheers, vigorous claps, and enthusiastic handshakes all around, especially for soloists Cyril, Rolly and Ruben (Aries, our other soloist, is sort of a pro, singing with the UP Cherubims in grade school and now a band vocalist).

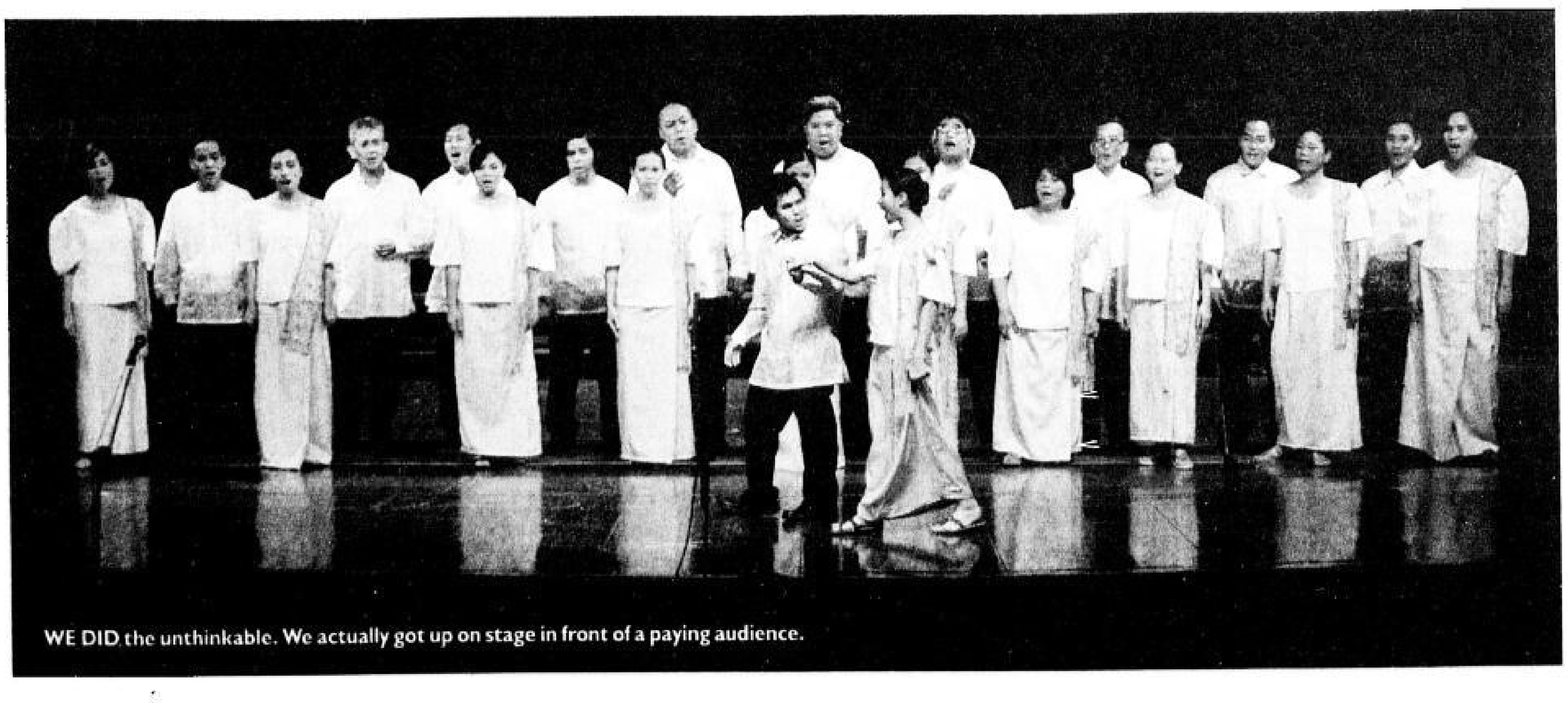
Is there life for the choir after Philamlife and St. Benilde?

Already, the hyperactive Jerry Dadap is thinking of a concert of love songs for the benefit of typhoon victims in February. There's also an offer to sing at environment advocate Odette Alcantara's earth day concert at the CCP, according to Amadis.

The PDI Singers (or Inchoirer) say it's something to consider (ehem).

We may not be laughing all the way to the bank (yet), but like my favorite composer George Gershwin said:

"They all said we'd never get together
...Let's take a bow
Who's got the last laugh
Let's at the past laugh
Who's got the last laugh now?"



WE DID the unthinkable. We actually got up on stage in front of a paying audience.

NILO Paurom, chief of the News Day Desk, is all smiles after being presented with his service award statue by PDI chair Marixi Prieto and president Sandy P. Romualdez. Above, Carlo Mercado gets a kiss from comedienne Ai Ai de las Alas. RUDY ESPERAS

15-year awardees

1. Bandayrel, Pergentino B. Jr.
National Editor
2. Del Rosario, Benita D.
Admin. Dept. Head
3. Delos Reyes, Mario D.
Production Head
4. Deloso, Bertoldo P.
Shift Supervisor
5. Marcelo, Raul O.
Business Editor
6. Narisma, Socorro S.
Asst. Business Editor
7. Abad, Rolando O.
Copy Monitor
Office of the Managing Editor
8. Caruncho, Eric S.
Staffwriter, SIM
9. Gomez, Raquel P.
Special Projects Writer
10. Ruiz, Jerry A.
Pre-press Specialist
11. Viray, Renato C. Jr.
Business Development Officer

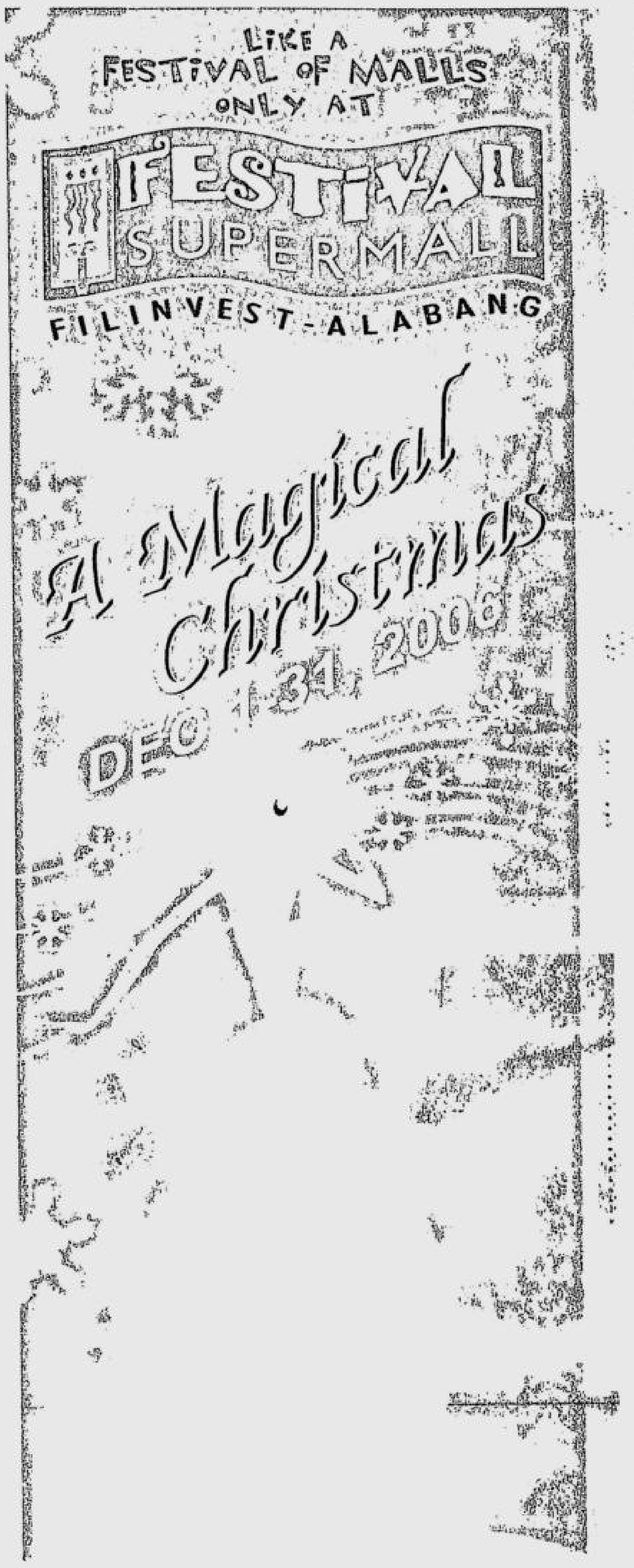
WORKING with the INQUIRER for 15 years is no mean feat. No wonder these 15-year awardees all look happy and contented. Renato "Bong" Viray missed this photo shoot.

10-year awardees

SOME of the 10-year awardees flashing their grin of satisfaction. They sure look like a noisy bunch, with Louie and Noli there.

1. Abing Carlito U.
Driver
2. Esturas, Raphael Sigmund O.
Audit Assistant
3. Lalicon, Liberty S.
Account Executive
4. Geraldo, Adelle I.
DPU Section Head
5. Lorenzo, Jaime O.
Editorial Apps Specialist
6. Espinosa, Neyla T.
Performance Mgt System Assistant
7. Alconaba, Nestor A. Jr.
Bureau Chief-Davao
8. Honasan, Alicia Yael B.
Editor in Chief, SIM
9. Bondoc, Josephine S.
Photographer 2
10. Macawile, Sharon Wendy R.
Editorial Assistant
11. Bordadora, Norman S.
Reporter 2
12. Navarro, Noli T.
Editorial Support Services Head
13. Delgado, Ma. Regina J.
Secretary to the SVP-Sales
14. Ambrosio, Francis P.
Collector
15. Navarro, Felipe M. III
Reporter 1
16. Gaylican, Christine A.
Reporter 1
17. Salazar, Marlet D.
Special Projects Writer
18. Bacani, Luisito Jr. T.
Editorial Application Specialist
19. Lagman, Genie L.
Pre-press Specialist
20. Dumlao, Ma. Cristina A.
Desk Editor
21. Fernandez, Concepcion E.
Desk Editor-Cebu
22. Fernandez, Melanio D.
Desk Assistant
23. Jano, Gerry S.
Driver
24. Moral, Ma. Rachelle V.
Reporter 1
25. Villapando, Gemma G.
Production Specialist
26. Jambora, Anna Marie A.
Reporter 1

Why not the world?
– Lea Salonga
Dare to ask.
Be an Inquirer.
INQUIRER



This week's events:

Ms. Kuh Ledesma in Concert

Dec. 10

Enjoy the soothing rhythms from the country's original pop diva Kuh Ledesma as she serenades mall-goers with classic OPM and Christmas numbers accompanied by a 15-piece orchestra.

International Bazaar

Dec. 2-10

It's a cultural bazaar as embassies and international organizations showcase their country's art, food and crafts. Get a chance to win a trip to Malaysia from the Malaysia Tourism Board and other trips to international destinations from Cebu Pacific.

Next week's events:

Leggiero Strings • Dec. 15, 18, and 21
Manila Philharmonic Orchestra with Ecole de Ballet Manille • Dec. 16
SITTI: Live • Dec 17

Watch out for other exciting events this month!

HOLIDAY MALL HOURS

Dec 1-22 (10am - 10pm) • Dec. 23 (10am - 12 midnight) • Dec. 24 & 31 (10am - 7pm) • Dec. 25 & Jan 1 (12nn - 10pm) • Dec. 26-30 (10am - 9pm)

FILINVEST

THE 5-YEAR awardees join PDI chair Marixi R. Prieto and president Sandy P. Romualdez in flashing the No. 1 sign for the INQUIRER. RUDY ESPERAS

5-year awardees

1. Lee, Fructuosa F.
Audit Dept Head
Audit Dept

2. Agustin, Chona Eden P.
Billing Clerk

3. Alday, Rosalyn A.
Bookkeeper

4. Mercado, Carlo Angelo L.
Sales Office Assistant

5. Remo, Amelita Melissa R.
Editorial Admin. Assistant

6. Remo, Michelle Evaresta V.
Reporter 1

7. Fortes, Maria Roselle F.
Product Manager

8. Joseph, Cesar A.
Dispatcher

9. Evangelista, Cecilia V.
SA/Programmer

10. Villarico, Anne Luisa E.
Editorial Production Assistant

11. Cuaresma, Richard A.
Messenger

12. Nery, John
Managing Editor

13. Nawal, Allan A.
Desk Editor-Mindanao

14. Ho, Abigail L.
Reporter 2

15. Nieto, Janet D.
SA/Programmer

16. Melendres, Teddyvic S.
Sports Editor

17. Lalata, Romel M.
Desk Editor
Inquirer Libre

18. Sabado, Ritche S.
Graphic Artist

19. Salaverria, Leila B.
Reporter 1

20. Medina, Graciella Rose M.
Account Executive

21. Suñga, Christiana R.
Records Clerk

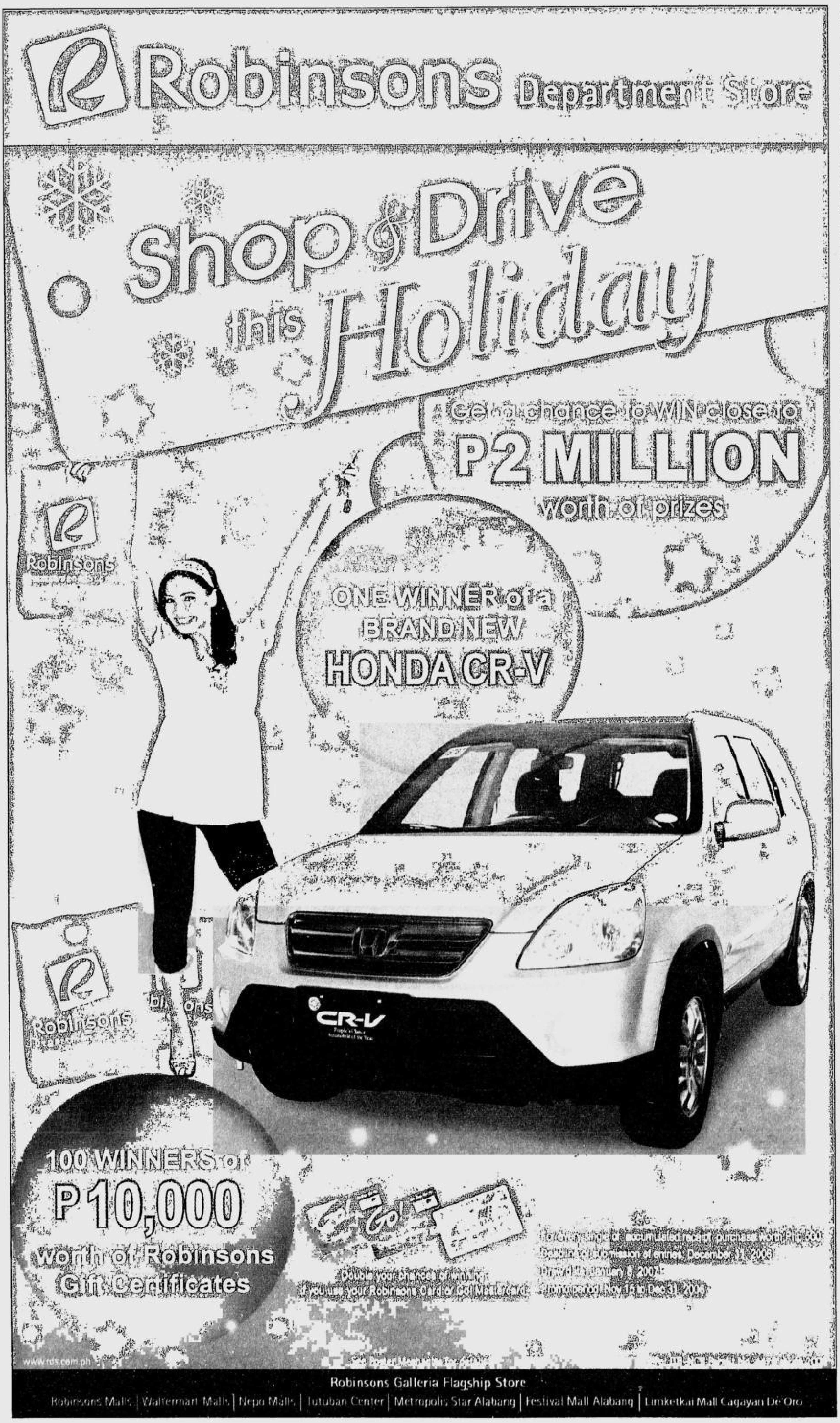
22. Rockwell, Jennifer Marie T.
Account Executive

23. Gangcuangco, Ethel A.
Records Assistant

24. Soliman, Christine O.
HR Assistant

ARIES Espinosa belts out a solo number as part of the PDI Singers' performance at the awards rites. RUDY ESPERAS

INQUIRER executive vice president Dave Valdes cringes in quiet delight during a close encounter with sexy actress Rufa Mae Quinto, one of the guest celebrities in the service awards rites. RUDY ESPERAS



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